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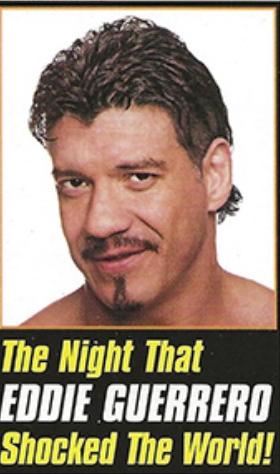
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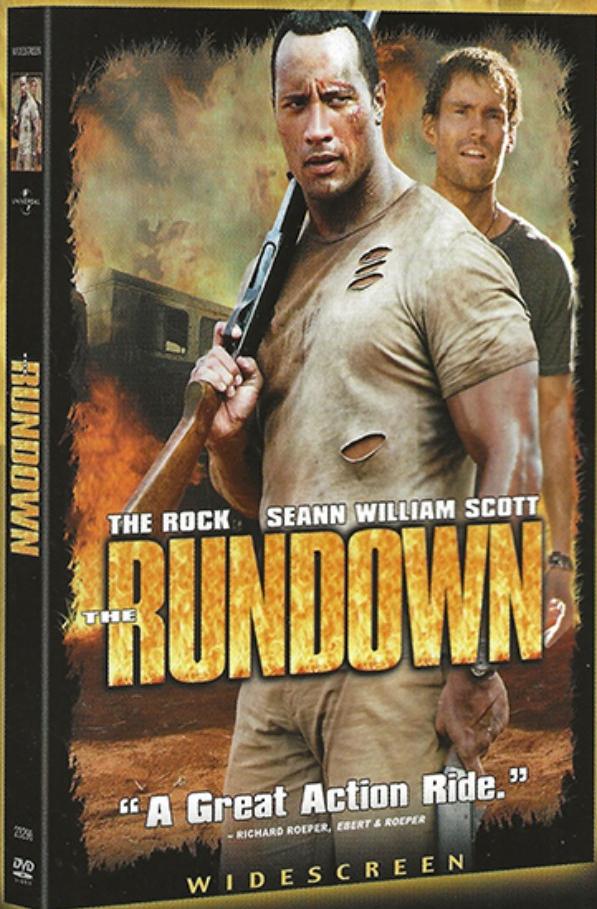
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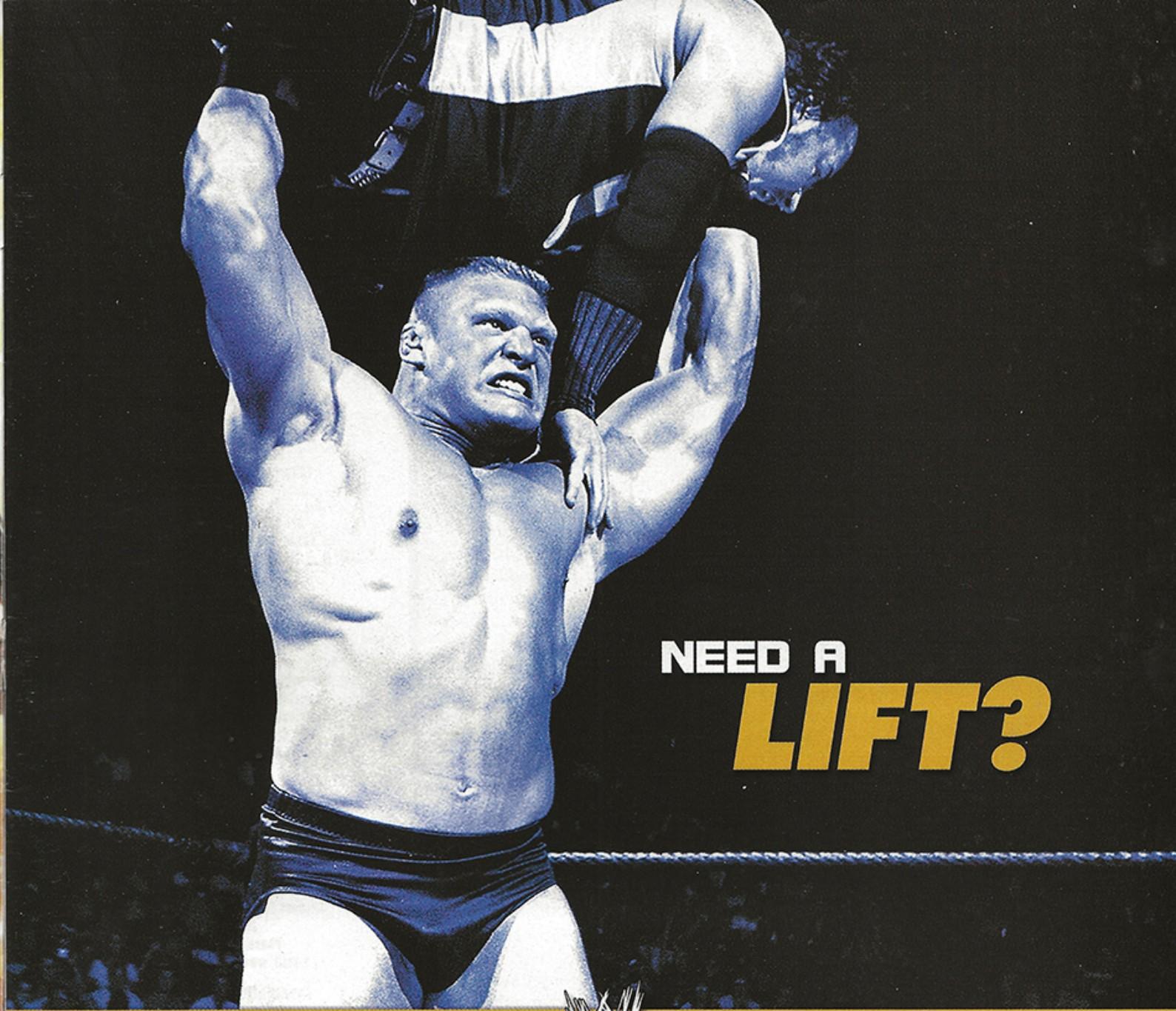
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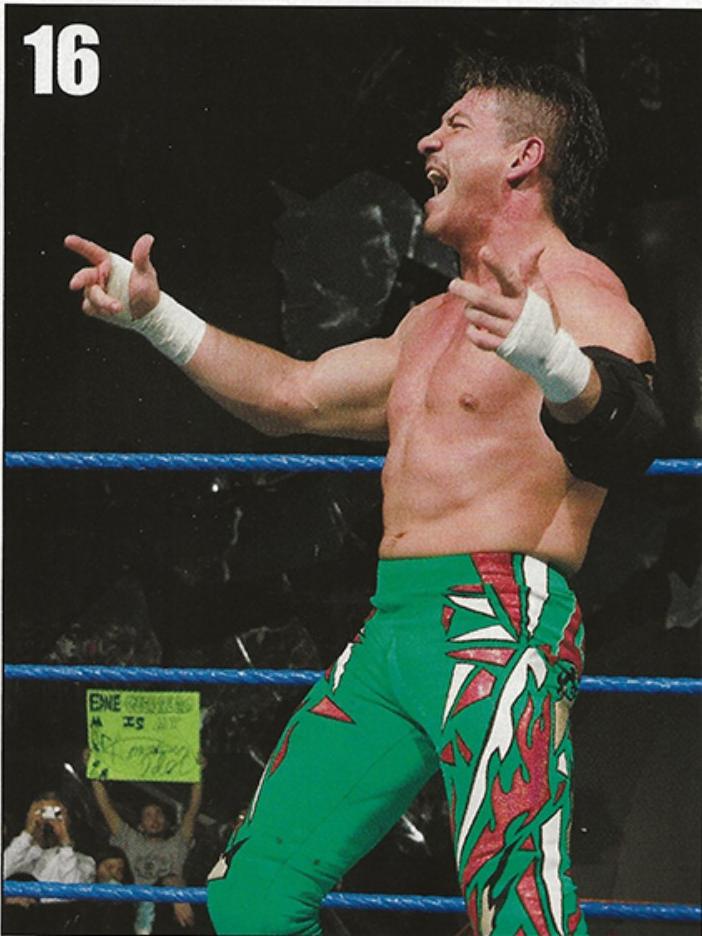
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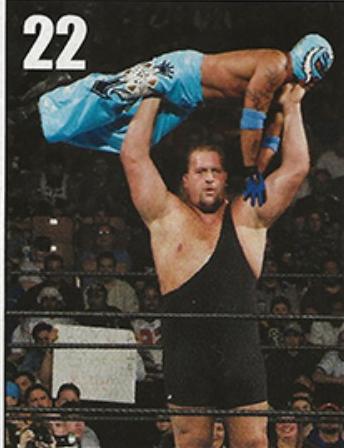
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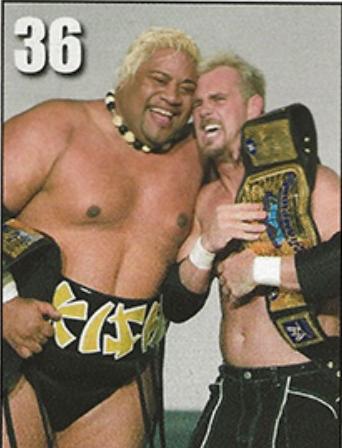
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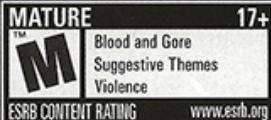
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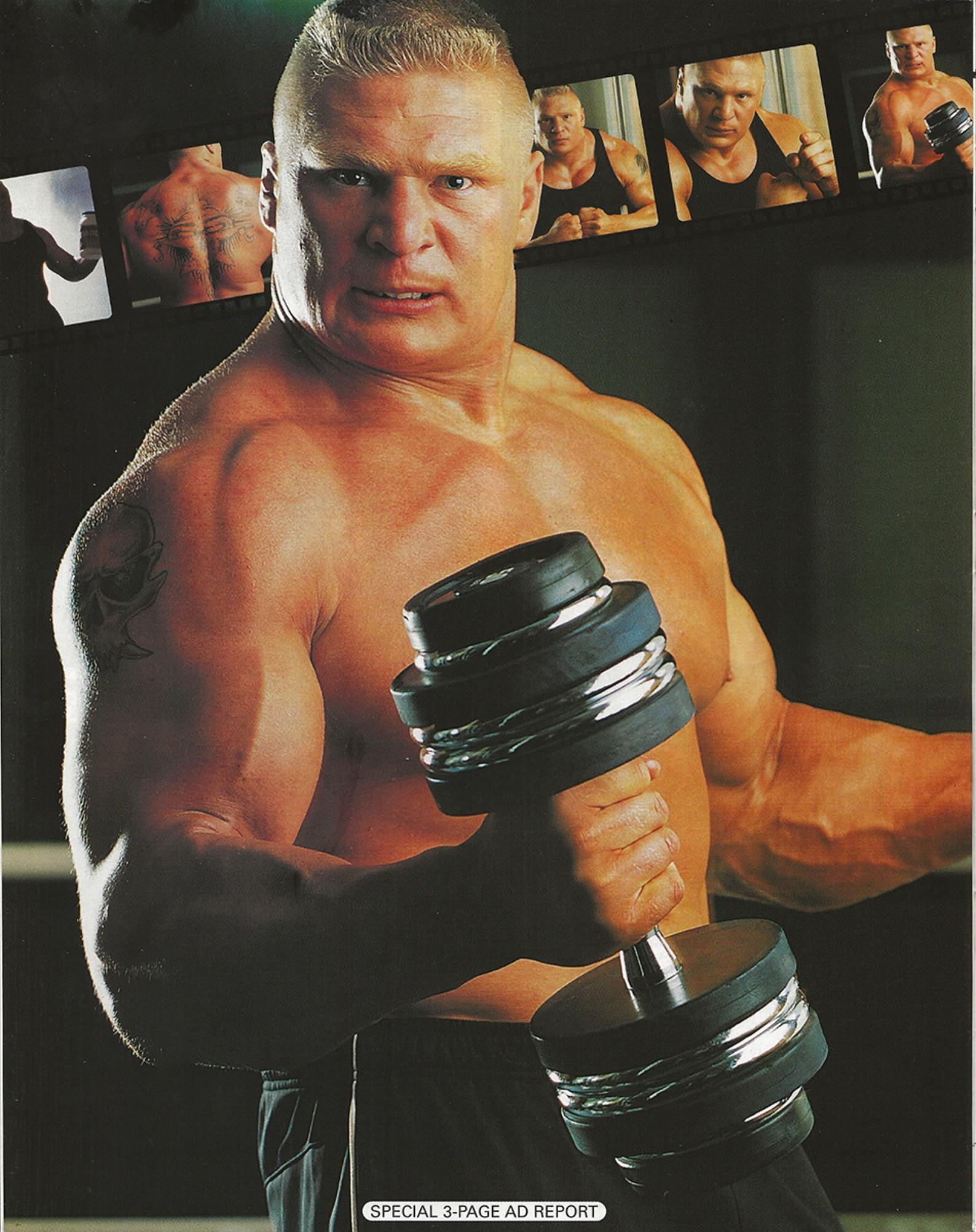
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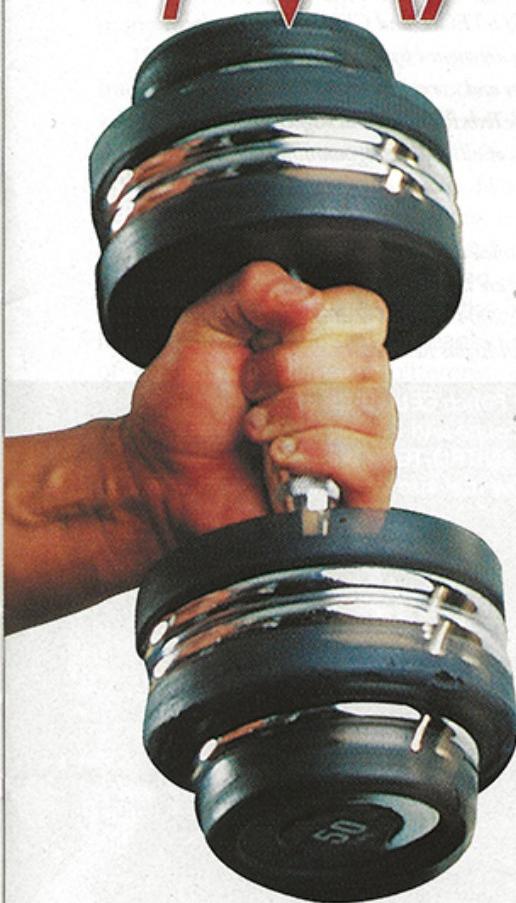
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# UNSTOPPABLE MUSCLE MACHINE

**Take A Look Into The Life Of WWE®  
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**H**ulking over many who stand before him, Brock Lesnar has become an unstoppable force in World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) since he made his debut in the ring at the mere age of 24. Brock, an NCAA heavyweight champion in wrestling, has made a smooth transition from amateur status to the professional ranks of WWE. Combining brute force with astonishing agility normally associated with men half his size, and expert amateur wrestling skills, Brock is a unique phenomenon in sports-entertainment.

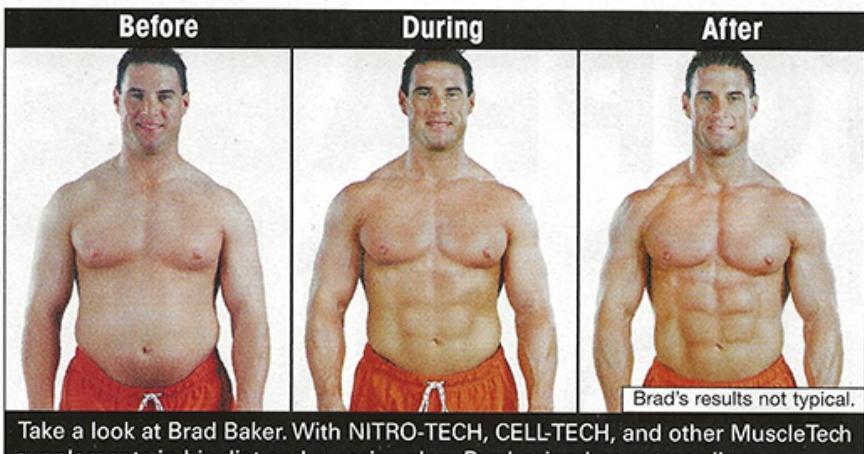
Storming through the ranks of the WWE roster like a tornado destroying all in its path, Brock has laid waste to many of the sport's biggest icons in his pursuit of the most coveted prize in sports-entertainment – the WWE Heavyweight Championship. He achieved this accomplishment in his rookie year, thus becoming the youngest champion in the history of the sport!

#### **Intense Training, Brock Lesnar Style**

Brock grew up on a farm near Webster, South Dakota. Since he couldn't frequently make his way into town to train at the gym, Brock had to come up with creative ways to push his muscles to a point where they'd have no choice but to adapt and grow. That's why it wasn't an uncommon occurrence to see the young Lesnar running down the road with a 180-pound log slung over his shoulder. While this may sound unconventional, it's this type of all-or-nothing attitude that only the truly dedicated possess!

#### **Advice From The Champ**

"To see great results, you need to include diet and exercise along with supplementation," Brock says. "Supplementation plays a major role in my ability to maintain my size and recover from the rigors of the gym and the ring. That's why MuscleTech supplements play such a big part of my life. I've been using MuscleTech supplements, and I truly enjoy the products. My muscles feel a lot fuller with the help of CELL-TECH and NITRO-TECH. If you're looking to increase your strength, build muscle, and improve your physical performance, you should include CELL-TECH and NITRO-TECH with diet and training."



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plements. By adding CELL-TECH and NITRO-TECH to your training program, you too can become an unstoppable muscle machine!

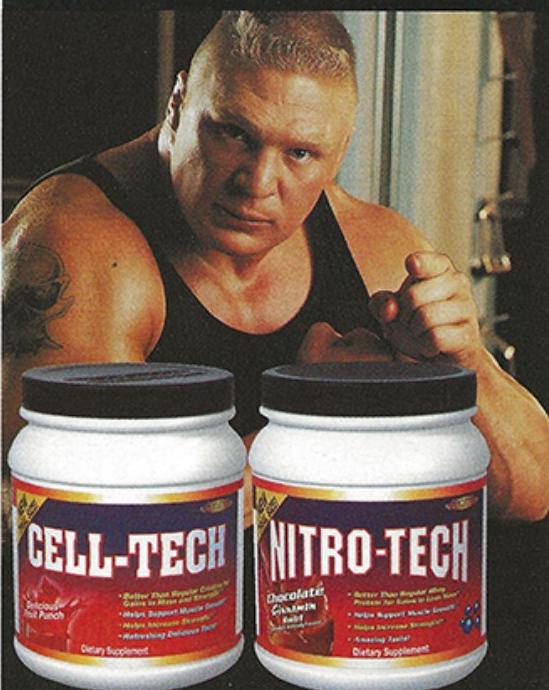
experience incredible increases in muscle size and strength. In fact, in one 8-week study, subjects who combined the CELL-TECH and NITRO-TECH stack with diet and weight training gained an average of 9.6 pounds of lean mass! In this same 8-week study, subjects who combined CELL-TECH and NITRO-TECH with diet and weight training gained an average of 86.4 pounds on their max bench press! While these results may seem extraordinary, keep in mind that these are the average results. And these are not the only incredible results achieved with the help of CELL-TECH and NITRO-TECH.

In just 13 weeks, Brad Baker gained 15 pounds of lean mass when he added

CELL-TECH, NITRO-TECH, and other MuscleTech supplements to his diet and training program. With results like these, you may be asking yourself, can it get any better? Well, in a word, "yes." Both CELL-TECH and NITRO-TECH are now available in new, improved flavors as well. On top of this, NITRO-TECH is available in all-new Exotic Tropical Fruit and Chocolate Cinnamon Swirl flavors. With so

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many reasons to use CELL-TECH and NITRO-TECH, it's easy to understand why WWE SmackDown! Superstar Brock Lesnar is using these powerful musclebuilding sup-

# Stop The Madness

## How Sports-Entertainment Can Often Ruin Families

**It's sad, really.** There's nothing quite as heartbreaking as watching the sacred bonds of family unravel before your very eyes. It's something that should never happen, yet, for sports-entertainment fans, it's something they've seen far too many times.

The most recent occurrence of this tragic theme played out earlier this year with the utter implosion of Los Guerreros. Who would have imagined that such a tightly knit clan could be destroyed by pettiness and greed the way it was? Even formerly "neutral" family members like Chavo Guerrero Sr., Chavo's dad and Eddie's brother, were drawn into the fray. It was almost like a disease spreading out of control—a disease of bitterness and rancor.

For fans that followed Eddie and Chavo through so much, it was devastating to watch things fall apart the way they did. These were two men who were WWE Tag Team Champions together, but, more importantly than that, they were *familia*. Yet, in the end, the dog-eat-dog world of sports-entertainment changed them forever, just as it has for so many other families in the past.

We've seen it many times, from siblings like Edge & Christian and Matt & Jeff Hardy. Bret & Owen Hart waged such a bitter war that it was easy to forget that they actually were brothers. Undertaker and Kane, granted, may have already had axes to grind way before entering the sport, but it certainly didn't help matters that both men had such easy access to such a socially acceptable form of aggression.

Even the McMahons, the first family of WWE, have not been immune. What

is the root cause of this sickness that eats away at family ties? And, more importantly, what can be done to prevent more families from being torn apart by the rigors of the canvas jungle?

This isn't even the first time that Eddie and Chavo have been at each others' throats. Their first flare-up took place back in their WCW days. At that time, Eddie played the role of aggressor, while Chavo was the victim. Perhaps, then, this is all about payback. But it still doesn't take away from the fact that the business drove these two men apart in the first place.

In a world where success is so important, where loyalties are constantly threatened by the desire for greatness, it's clear that even the closest of kinship means nothing in the end. Sooner or later, jealousy will rear its ugly head. It may take longer than it does for allies who are not related by blood, but it will happen nonetheless.

The answer? Simple, actually—don't mix business with family. The only way to preserve the bond is not to subject it to the stress associated with professional alliances. One of the only examples of two brothers who survived competing simultaneously in WWE without ever feuding is that of "Macho Man" Randy Savage and "Leaping" Lanny Poffo. That's because publicly, they never had anything to do with each other. They stayed out of each others' paths and never made a big deal out of the fact that they were brothers. In fact, how many of you even knew they were brothers?

Will future WWE Superstars take heed of this advice? I'd like to say yes, but I've



seen too much to really believe that. With the Basham Brothers on *SmackDown!* and the Dudley Boyz on *Raw*, we've got two more powder kegs just waiting for that spark. Heck, it's already happened with Bubba Ray and D-Von a couple of times before. The hubris of these competitors causes them to continually believe that their situation is different, that they will never fall victim to the pitfalls that have undone those who came before them. If only they realized their foolishness, there might be a chance of preventing further tragedy.

In closing, I leave you with the words of Groucho Marx, who, perhaps more than anyone else, got to the root of this situation.

"I don't care to belong to a club that accepts people like me as members." ■

# GILMAN'S CORNER



Rey Mysterio's entrance goes  
horribly wrong.



# Death from Above



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You, the readers, have the chance to pick the brains of the *SmackDown!* Superstars on any subject you like!

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Or e-mail your questions to: [sdmag@wwe.com](mailto:sdmag@wwe.com) • With the subject line: "Ask the Superstars"

Nate Finn, of Wilkes-Barre, PA, asks:

## Where were you when WWE offered you a contract?

• I was in a parking lot in Hanover, Germany, talking to Bruce Prichard on a pay phone when I found out I had a tryout match. I was in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, when I found out I had a contract. I wrestled a tryout match with Savio Vega in Bethlehem. Gerald Brisco and J.J. Dillon wanted to talk to me in private because the dressing room was so packed, so they pulled me in the shower and offered me a contract. I was supposed to go to WCW the next day and talk to them. But [Brisco and Dillon] told me they wanted to give me a contract, and asked me not to go to WCW the next day. I said, "Yep. I got your word. You've got mine." — **Bradshaw**

• I was sitting in my one-bedroom in "Inglehood" (Inglewood, California) and I got the news. I quit my job right away. But I stayed in the 'hood. — **John Cena**



• I was on my way to the gym and my phone started to ring. I said, "Oh, I'll just call back later. If I start talking now, I'll never make it to the gym." After I was done in the gym, I noticed there was a message on my phone. It was John Laurinaitis. I called my dad and he said, "Well, did you call them back yet?" I said no. He said, "Well, call them back! He's going to offer you a job!" So I went back to my house and I calmed down. I called them a few hours later—it took me a little while—and Johnny told me they were interested in hiring me. We started out negotiations from there. — **Dawn Marie**

• At the time, I was working at an insurance company, and I got a call from Bruce Prichard. I had my WWE tryout at the New Haven Coliseum. I got my contract and met with Vince McMahon there, and later in my career, I also got shot for the cover of *WWE Magazine* at the New Haven Coliseum. Quite a coincidence. Now, they've closed the New Haven Coliseum! — **Scotty 2 Hotty**

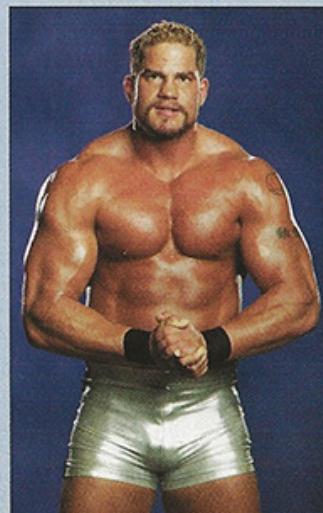
• I had just woken up in my apartment, and was about to fix myself some cereal. Dr. Tom Prichard called me and asked if I wouldn't mind canceling the rest of my bookings. I said, "No, I'd love to." He said, "Good, we'd like to give you a deal." I was the happiest guy alive. — **Paul London**

• I was with Chavo Guerrero, just leaving Panama City, Florida, after the big news that WCW was bought out by Vince McMahon. I got a phone call saying they liked me, they'd been watching me, and they'd like to keep me on and bring me over to WWE. — **Bill DeMott**

• I was in Minneapolis, in the apartment that I shared with my best friend when I got the call from John Laurinaitis. This was late December 1999. I went into a cold sweat because it was like, "Whoa. I actually got it." I was happy. I was amazed. And me being a poor college kid, [when they said], "We're going to pay you X amount of dollars a week," it was like, "Wow. That's more than I make in two months!" — **Shelton Benjamin**

• I was at OVW [Ohio Valley Wrestling] practice in Louisville. I was told that I was going to receive a contract. When I actually got it, I was thrilled to death to see how much money I was actually going to be making. After that, I just wanted to get on the road and start doing the shows. Unfortunately, I had to sit in OVW for about six more months. — **Danny Basham**

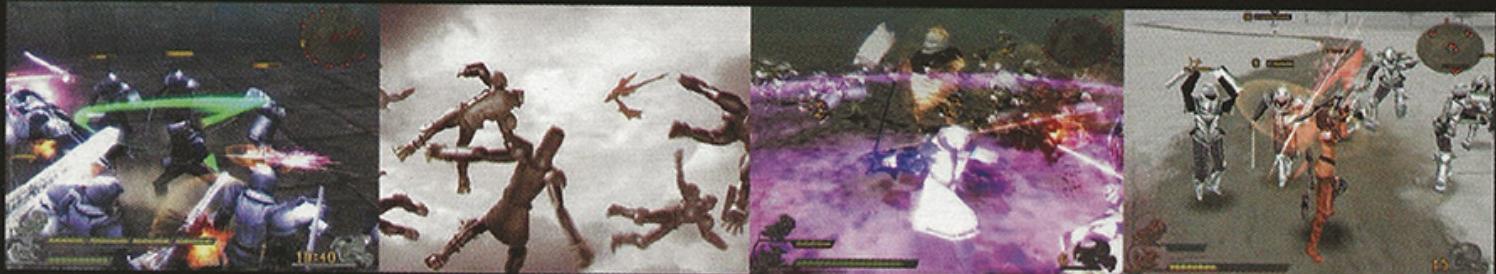
• I was working for Ford Motor Company on the assembly line. I was down in the pit with trucks going over my head and a five-pound gun in my hand, shooting bolts, when I got the phone call. I picked it up—I almost didn't answer the phone—and it was John Laurinaitis. I stopped. I said, "Johnny, I've been waiting for this phone call my entire life. Can I call you back?" I couldn't stop working. I would have gotten into big trouble. I called him back and he told me that I was getting hired. I was like, "Holy s\*\*\*!" I told Ford, "Thank you very much for the opportunity, but I'm going to pursue my dream career." — **Doug Basham**



• I was working at Enterprise Car Sales, where I was an account executive. I got a call on my office phone. I didn't want to disrespect the place of business, so I went out to the garage where the people cleaned our cars. I went inside a Ford Explorer, turned up the radio, and I was just like, "F\*\*\* yes!" — **Matt Morgan**

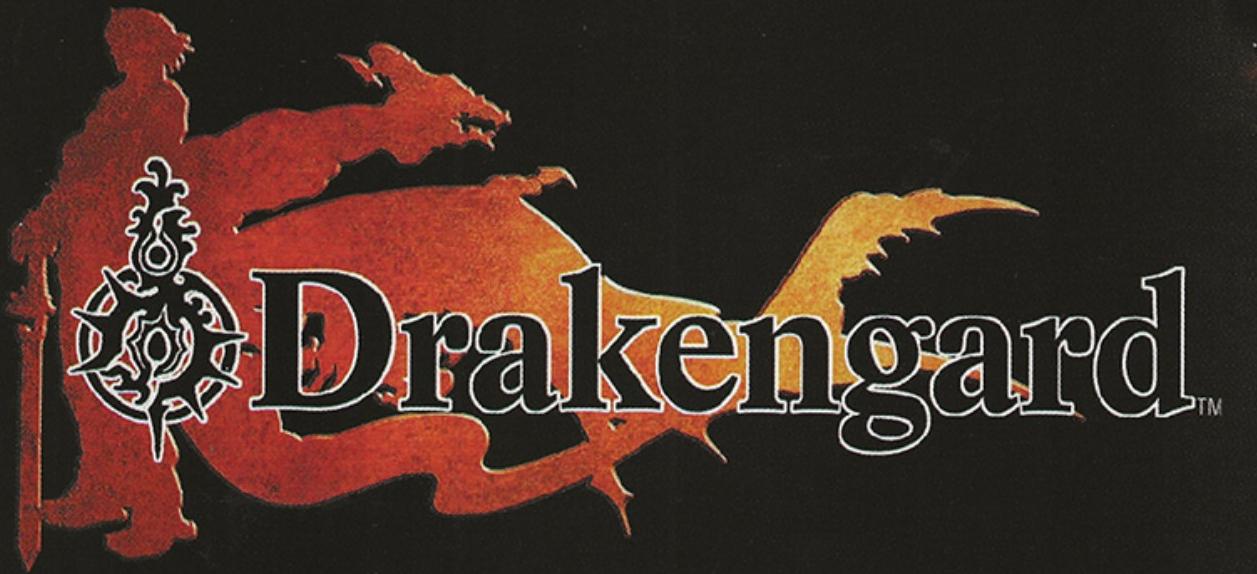


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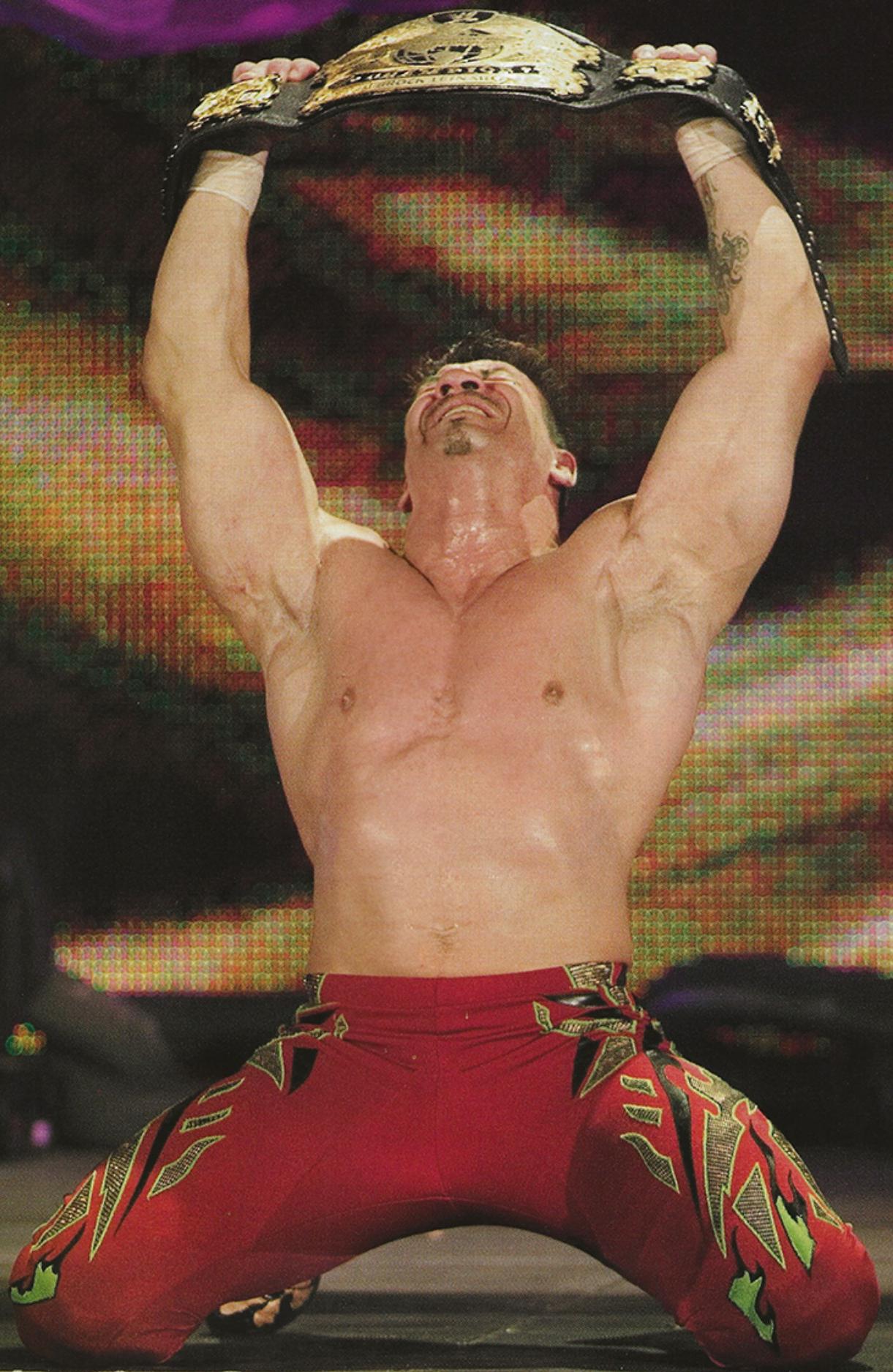




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# NEVER SAY DIE

By Aaron Williams

## Eddie Guerrero Fulfills His Lifelong Dream and Snags the Gold

**Thirty minutes before** his WWE Championship match against Brock Lesnar at *No Way Out*, the normally gregarious Eddie Guerrero sat alone in his locker room and thought about everything he had gone through to get to this point. All of his matches, all of his travels, and all of his personal ups and downs flooded his mind and threatened to overwhelm him.

"Breathe," Eddie thought to himself. "Just take a deep breath and relax. This is what you've been waiting for your whole life. Just breathe and think about what you have to do to beat Brock Lesnar."

After taking several deep breaths, Guerrero gained a measure of calm. His mind began to focus on the match at hand, and a smile broke out across his face. He knew that if he performed his best, he could defeat the indomitable Lesnar. Who cares if most of the public didn't believe he could win? Guerrero knew a few things about winning, and, most importantly, he believed in himself.

Earlier in the day, before anyone else arrived at the fabled San Francisco Cow Palace, where the match would take place, Guerrero stood alone in the ring and thought about all those who had helped him over the years and what it would mean to them if he became WWE Champion. He wanted to repay them, to thank them for standing by him through thick and thin. To do this—to win the championship—he knew that he must now stand on his own. His friends and family could only take him so far.

If he wanted to succeed, if he really wanted to become *El Campeón*, he needed to erase all doubts about his own abilities. A very good friend had just told Eddie that you can rely on your faith, you can rely on your family, and you can rely on your friends, but sometimes, you have to bring the shovel and do the work yourself.

On this day, Eddie was determined to bring his shovel and do his work. So, alone in the empty arena, Eddie began to make his way back to the locker room—as determined to succeed as he had ever been.

"The next time I leave this ring," Eddie promised himself, "I'm going to be leaving as WWE Champion."

About 50 yards from where Eddie was sitting alone in his locker room, WWE Champion Brock Lesnar prepared to do battle himself. Unlike the calm Guerrero, Lesnar was a house of fire. Earlier in the evening, Bill Goldberg had shown up—against the wishes of both Lesnar and *SmackDown!* General Manager Paul Heyman—and caused some serious trouble. After Goldberg ignored Heyman's orders to leave the premises, Lesnar came to the ring, only to get into a physical confrontation with his enemy. Their brief encounter ended when Goldberg Jackhammered Lesnar. The champion was furious, but there was very little he could do.

He had a title match against Guerrero later on, so it would have been foolish to brawl further with Goldberg. But, it was not easy for Lesnar to leave Goldberg alone after what he had done to him. Revenge ate away at Lesnar's insides, and he was as angry as he had ever been. Loud noises could be heard coming from his locker room, and one could only imagine how much damage he was doing to the contents within. Those who walked by the locker room shook their heads



and wondered what this might mean for the championship match.

"I wouldn't want to be Eddie tonight," said one Superstar after he heard what was going on in Lesnar's locker room. "Eddie's waited his whole career for this, but as mad as Lesnar is tonight, he might actually kill somebody."

## **It appeared that the crowd was going to go home unhappy—and early. If Guerrero really believed in himself, if he ever really wanted to show the world that he was stronger than his critics thought, now was the time to do it.**

Guerrero, of course, was oblivious to Lesnar's rage. He was focused on himself. Then, an official knocked on his door. "Eddie, it's time," the official said. Eddie took one last look in the mirror and nodded to himself. No words, no thoughts were necessary. It was time—*his* time.

Lesnar was introduced first, and as he walked to the ring, if one looked hard enough, one would have sworn that he could see the steam coming from his body. The always-intense Lesnar not only looked to defend his title, but to inflict some serious pain.

When Guerrero finally arrived before the crowd, the noise was deafening. There was little doubt who the fans were behind, and their cheers only served to further his cause.

The match began, and the crowd remained at a fever pitch. But as Lesnar began to release his pent-up frustration and take control, a strange lull overcame the Cow Palace.

Given the circumstances, perhaps, it was too much to expect Guerrero to defeat Lesnar, they may have been thinking to themselves.

Five minutes into the match, it looked like Guerrero might not make six. A vicious clothesline by the champion put "Latino Heat" in jeopardy, and it appeared that the crowd was going to go home unhappy—and early. If Guerrero really believed in himself, if he ever wanted to show the world that he was stronger than his critics thought, now was the time to do it.

And do it, he did. He dug deeper into his soul than he had ever dug before and fought off Lesnar's onslaught. At the 11-minute mark, his fortitude paid off. Attempting a running knee-lift, Lesnar charged at Guerrero, who was slumped in the ring corner. Guerrero saw it coming, however, and slipped out of the way at the last moment. The sprinting Lesnar was carried over the top rope and onto the outside floor by his own momentum. For the first time in the match, Eddie took the upper hand, and the crowd sensed that this underdog

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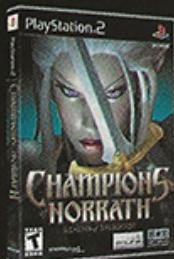
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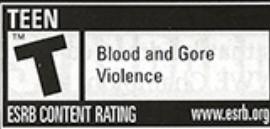
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may yet have his day.

Guerrero nailed Lesnar with a big suplex, and he then went to work on the champion's knee. At the 16-minute mark, he put Lesnar in the Figure-Four leg lock, which further weakened his opponent's leg. Four minutes later, as he applied a half-crab, for the very first time, the thought of Guerrero winning the championship did not seem that far-fetched.

Lesnar did not become champion by accident, though, and he managed to fight back like all great champions do. His blood boiled, and, at one point, his screams could be heard throughout the building.

"Die, Eddie! Just Die!" he yelled at Guerrero while he applied a vicious body scissors. Guerrero, well aware that this might be his only chance to win the sport's ultimate prize, would not cooperate. He battled on

with everything he had. Still, when Lesnar hit his dreaded F-5 at the 27-minute mark, Eddie, for all his fight and courage, appeared doomed.

Unbeknownst to Guerrero, however, fate had intervened. While Lesnar swung Guerrero around to deliver the F-5, he

## Overcome with emotion, he dived into the crowd to celebrate. The fans passed him around as if he were in a mosh pit, and the ring announcer called out to the world there was a new WWE Champion.

slammed him into referee Brian Hebner, who was knocked out. Lesnar could have covered Guerrero for a 20-count and it wouldn't have made a difference. There was no one to count him out.

The crowd now sensed that the gods might have something special planned for this evening. And they began to chant Guerrero's name over and over again in hopes that their efforts would rally their hero.

A frustrated Lesnar grabbed his championship belt and prepared to further punish Guerrero while the ref was out. But as he turned to nail Guerrero, he was hit with the ultimate surprise: a spear courtesy of Bill Goldberg, who had rushed the ring and left just as quickly.

As Hebner rose from the canvas, Guerrero went for a pinfall, but Lesnar kicked out just before the three-count. With the crowd in bedlam, the two battled with everything they had left. Brock once again went for an F-5, but Eddie slipped out and countered it into a DDT. He then climbed to the top rope and hit his vaunted Frog Splash on the prone champion. Three seconds later, Guerrero's dream had become reality. He had done it. He had defeated Brock Lesnar and became—no, he had *earned*—the right to be called WWE Champion.

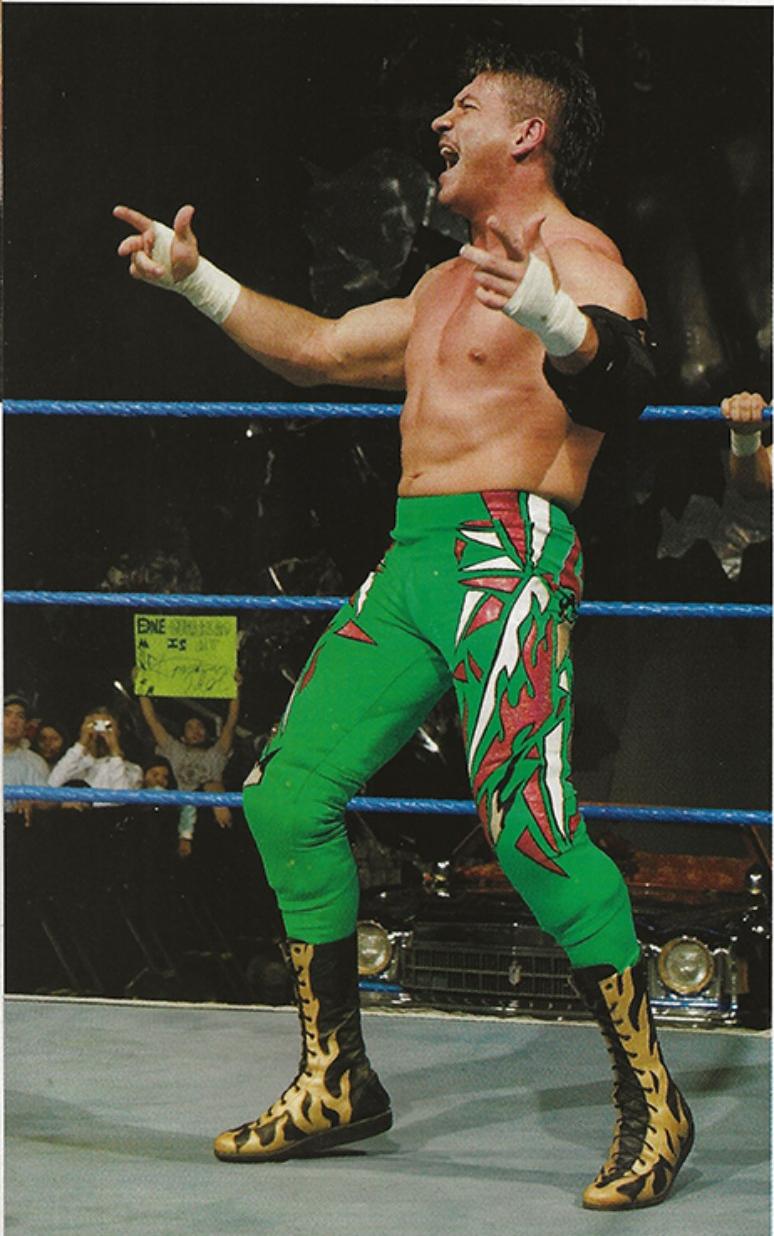
Overcome with emotion, he dove into the crowd to celebrate. The fans passed him around as if he were in a mosh pit, and the ring announcer called out to the world that there was a new WWE Champion.

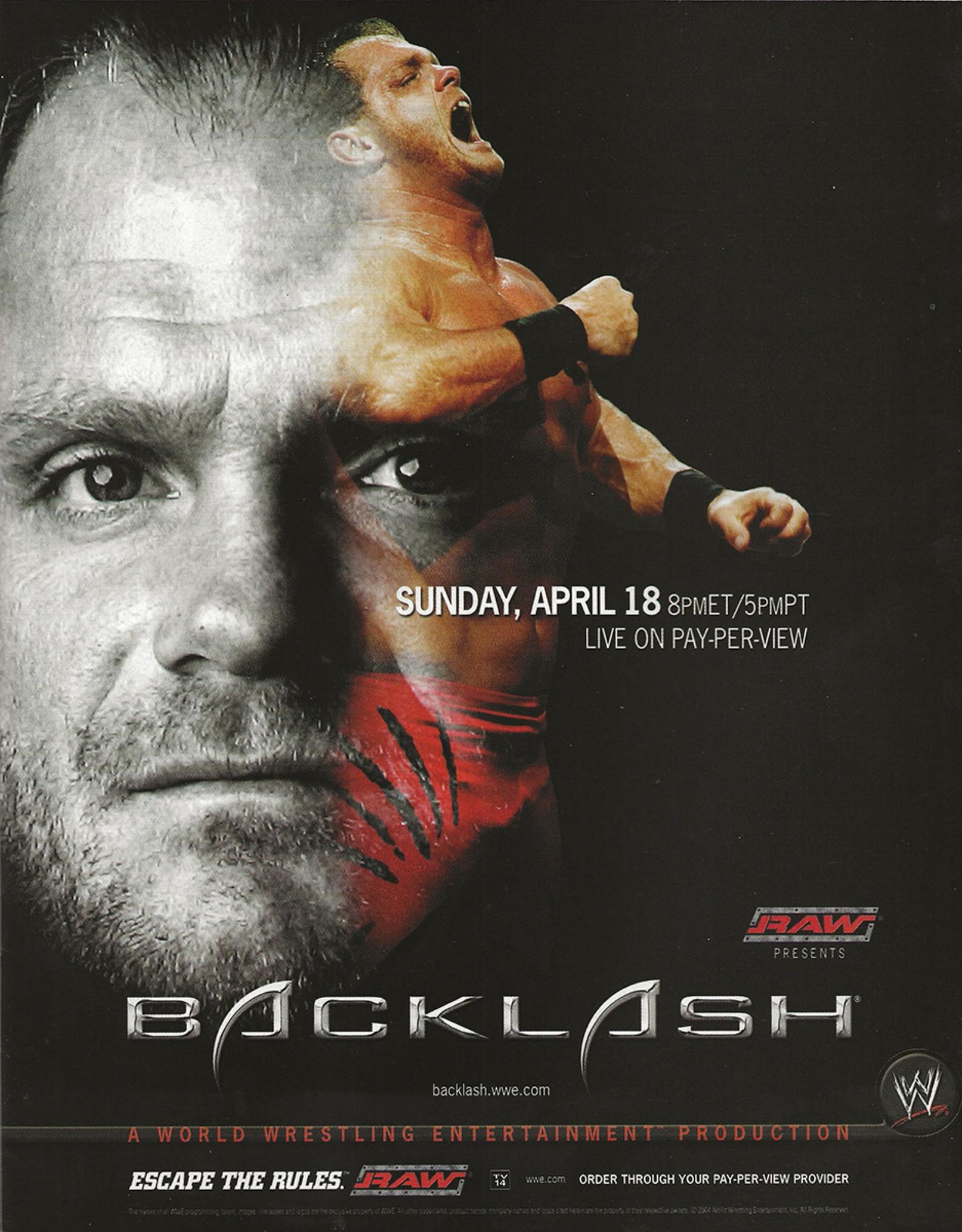
When Guerrero finally made his way to the back, he was surrounded by friends and family, who gave him a standing ovation. Tears of joy ran down his face. The tears of a champion.

"It's unbelievable. I can't describe how I feel," he said as he clutched the championship belt. "It's my dream come true, more than my dream, actually. I know all things are possible now. Even though this was a dream of mine, sometimes I wondered if it was too far-fetched. You want to grab all your dreams with all your heart, but sometimes they seem so far away that you can't."

"Who'd ever expect a Chicano—5-foot-9 and 220 pounds—to win the WWE Championship? I'm just thankful and there are a lot of people behind it. I can't take all the credit."

While others certainly helped Guerrero along the way, this night belonged to him. He brought his shovel. He did his work. And now he could hear the words that he dreamed of hearing his whole life: Eddie Guerrero, WWE Champion. ■





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# The Show Must Go On



**It's not always easy being a giant. Just ask Big Show, one of the most high-profile members of the WWE roster. Of course, there are perks, like the ability to move a car without getting behind the wheel, or knowing that you outweigh almost all your opposition by over 100 pounds. But it's a little more complex than that. We recently caught up with the big man, who spoke a lot about this unavoidable aspect of his life, as well as many other topics, such as comparisons to Andre the Giant, and his love of Dean Martin.**

**SmackDown! Magazine:** You're the biggest guy on the entire roster. Is there any pressure that comes along with that?

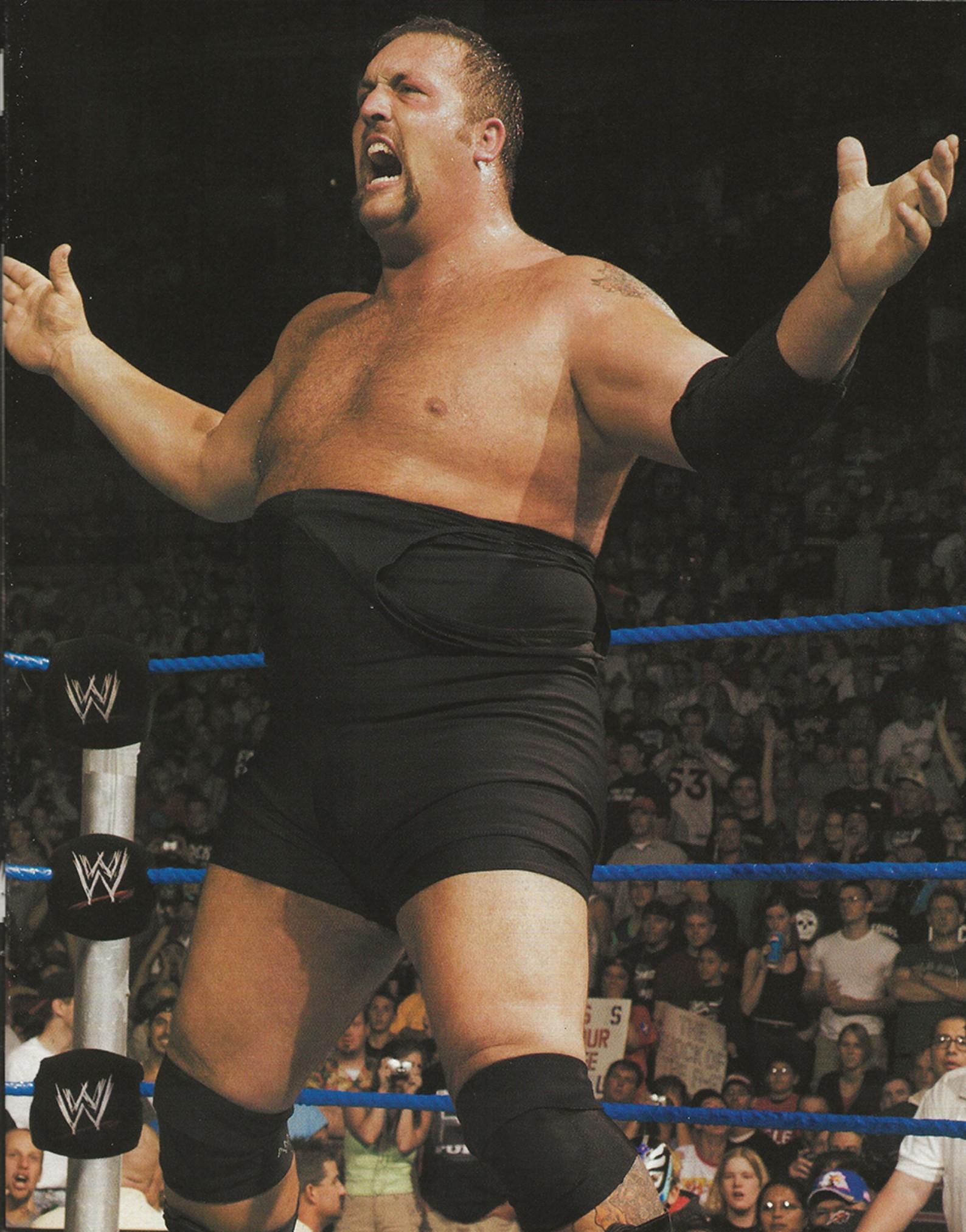
**Big Show:** I don't necessarily feel pressure for being a big guy. I do feel pressure from some of the older guys that I respect, the guys that have put in their time, that really look to me to be a leader in the locker room. Sometimes I wanna be a cut-up and a smartass, but I feel like I hold myself back because I have responsibility now. I'm one of our most recognizable Superstars. You can't hide a 7-foot, 500-pound guy under a hat and sunglasses. So I have a responsibility when I'm out in public, and I have a responsibility in the locker room. I don't try to be a know-it-all; I just try to be helpful. That's all I can do.

Respect is not anything anyone gives you. Respect is earned. Guys like Undertaker have earned everybody's respect over their years of work. I have a long way to go. But if I can earn half the respect he has, I'll have done well.

**SmackDown!: Does your size ever give you any sense of power in the ring?**

**Show:** No. I'm not that way. There are so many guys in our business who are legit bad-asses that it doesn't come into play. Sean O'Haire is a legit bad-ass in our company. Brock is an animal. I never try to think about taking advantage or taking liberties. I'm out here to entertain and do business, so that's what I try to do. Give the best show that I can possibly give. That's my No. 1 concern.

by BRIAN SOLOMON





**SmackDown!**: Literally from day one of your career, you have been compared to the legendary Andre the Giant. How do you deal with that?

**Show**: The only way you can deal with it. It's very flattering to be associated with someone of Andre's legendary caliber. Just the things he did—the amount of beer he could drink, the amount of food he could eat, the strength he had in the ring, the respect he had in the locker room. Andre was one of a kind, and for me to be associated with that is very flattering.

But, at the same time, I also know that I have to set myself apart and be my own man. If I'm gonna leave any kind of a mark on this business, it will be through a lot of work. I don't want to be one of those guys where you say, "Oh, he could have done this, he could have been Andre the Giant, he could've been a great entertainer." I don't wanna be that. I bulls\*\*\*\*ed around the first part of my career. I thought a lot of stuff was gonna be handed to me, and I realize now that I really have to dig deep to get it.

**SmackDown!**: Let's go off on a tangent for a moment, about something most fans may not realize about Big Show. I know for a fact that you are a big fan of Dean Martin. How did that happen? What is it about him that you like?

**Show**: I'm a fan of the whole Rat Pack era. I love Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., Joey Bishop, Peter Lawford. I've seen all their movies, and a lot of the clips of the actual shows they did in Vegas. I've even seen the guys that imitate the Rat Pack in Vegas revues.

I love that era. To me, that seemed like such a good time to be in Hollywood, a

## "Giants don't live long. If I live to be 60, I'll consider myself a lucky man."

good time to be famous. These guys were fun-loving, they partied with the most beautiful women, and they hung out with the most important people.

They just seemed like a good bunch of guys to hang out with. It didn't look like you could possibly have a bad time hanging out with Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra. I love their music. It either hits me with the rhythm, or the words might mean something to me, or the singer's voice might have an effect on me. Dean Martin especially, he just has that groove. Anything he sings sounds good. He could sing like [breaks into Dean Martin impression], 'Well, I woke up this mornin', I took a crap on

the toilet,' and he'd make it sound so cool. Dean is the man; he's the epitome of cool. In the HBO movie *The Rat Pack*, the part I like the most is where Peter's out with his girl, Frank's got two girls, Sammy's chillin' with his girl—and my boy Dean? He's sittin' in bed having a glass of milk, smoking a cigarette and watching a Western. I mean, that's me!

**SmackDown!**: Let's get back to wrestling. What's the toughest thing about competing at your size?

**Show**: Dealing with the pounding that my body takes from traveling. Trying to stuff myself into a car and drive 200 miles, unfold out of the car, wrestle, fly, and deal with my legs being cramped.

A lot of times on flights, there are no first-class seats available, so I get stuck on a 35-passenger jet with my knees in my ears. Even the guys I work with feel for me. They understand that this is not an easy business for big guys like me, like Rikishi, Kane or Undertaker. It attacks us in our hips, our lower backs, our knees. I'm in a lot of pain sometimes when I get up in the morning. But I'll take it, because I love what I do.

**SmackDown!**: Is your physical condition an issue? How important is it for a man your size?

**Show**: That depends on what you're talking about. My ring conditioning is great, my endurance is great, and that's what I need. I don't need to be all muscled up and look like I should be on the cover of *Flex* magazine. That's not my thing—I'm a giant. I don't think anybody wants a 7-foot, 500-pound guy that's built like Triple H. Triple H has a great physique, and that's his niche in the business. I'm supposed to be the big cuddly guy or the big nasty bastard.

**SmackDown!**: You've always seemed very comfortable doing comedy. Do you wish you could do more of it?

**Show**: I don't know if the comedy thing in the ring is going to happen again. My biggest hope would be to convince Hollywood that I'm funny, so I could branch out into movies and be a comedian like Chris Farley or John Candy, or somebody like that.

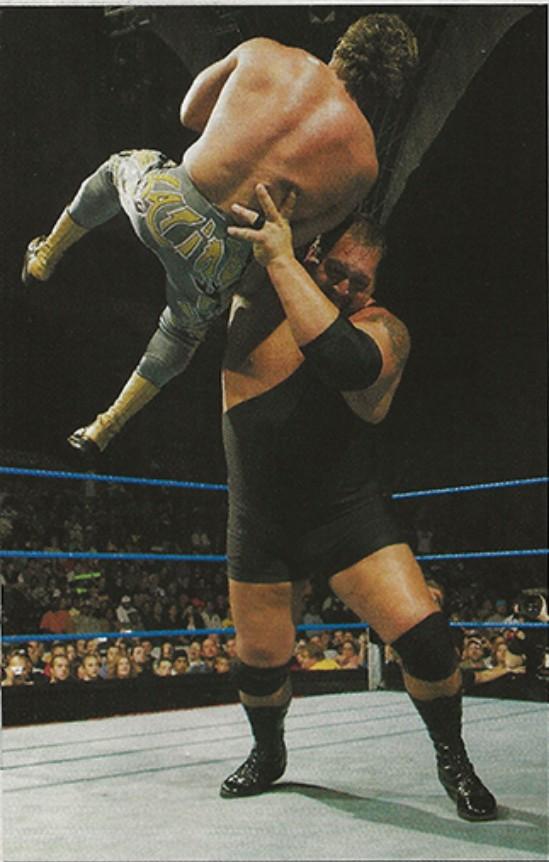
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**SmackDown!**: You had surgery early in your life to halt your growth disorder. Is there any danger of it recurring?

**Show:** I hope not. I have a doctor, Dr. Rob Dickerman, a neurosurgeon out of the Jewish Hospital of New York. His specialty is operating on inoperable brain tumors. He's an endocrinologist—this guy's brilliant. He's a real good friend of mine, and every year or so, I go see him, and we do the MRI and blood work, and make sure that the tumor isn't growing back, because in some cases it does. When this procedure was first started, they were unable to get all of it. But the doctor who did my surgery, Dr. Dudley Davis, was one of the top laser neurosurgeons in the world. He did such a fantastic job, so knock on wood, I won't have that problem again. Sometimes I miss it, though, because back when I had that thing, everything healed real fast, and I never needed any sleep.

**SmackDown!**: Are there any health problems you need to worry about down the road?

**Show:** I'm gonna have health problems down the road, just because I'm big. My wife hates it when I talk like this, but gravity is not gonna be a friend to me.

J.R. (WWE V.P. of Talent Relations) Jim Ross) is even concerned about me putting on too much weight. Gravity is gonna kill me. Giants don't live long. Andre died at 46; most giants don't last past their 50s. If I live to 60, I'll consider myself a lucky man. But I don't see it happening.

**SmackDown!**: Would you have been able to succeed here if you were, say, 6-foot-2, 235 pounds?

**Show:** I don't know if this business would have ever been available to me. If I knew what I know now, yes, I could have made it in this business at that size. I'd just change the way I work, and, obviously, I would have a different look altogether. The way I was when I broke into this business in WCW, no, I never would have made it. I was an idiot. I was very lucky. I had guys like Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, Terry Taylor, even Triple H, before he came up here, helping me down there. I had a lot of very smart people that helped me get through, because with my size, there was potential to make the company money. Had I not had that potential, then no, I wouldn't have made it.

I got my job because of my size, and

## "I was very lucky. I got my job because of my size, and I know it."

I know it. Now I'm keeping my job hopefully because of my work ethic and my contributions to the company. It's a shame, too, because if I were 6-2, 235, I would've missed out on a wonderful career. I love this job. I love the people in it; I love the fans. I'm thankful every day that I have the opportunity to go to work here and take care of my family the way I can. Believe me, there's no man on the planet luckier than I am.

**SmackDown!**: What would you be doing if you weren't here?

**Show:** I'd probably be a mechanic. I probably never would've left South Carolina. I'd have continued where my dad started me off, working on cars and

rebuilding engines. I always had a little bit of business incentive, so I'd probably have my own junk yard or garage by now. I always had something going. I'd have done something with my life, I know that. I was always a little entrepreneur, even as a kid. I'd kick the soda machine in the teachers' lounge, the sodas would fall out of the bottom, and I'd sell them on the school bus on the way home. I'd sell *Playboy* magazines at school. I was always the kid to go to if you needed something. You need pencils, you need crayons? What do ya need? I got it. I would come to school and sell all the s\*\*\* my parents bought me for school. Then I'd go buy other stuff and resell it. I went to school to make money, there was no doubt about it. I was in business.

**SmackDown!**: What are you the most proud of in your career, and in your personal life?

**Show:** As far as my career goes, I've been in the ring with a lot of really talented people, but I would honestly have to say that the thing I'm most proud of was the trip we just took to Iraq. That was such a monumentally good thing that we did, not just for the company, but for me, personally. I know we went over there to help lift the troops' morale, but it really uplifted my morale as well. I met some really great people over there, and it's something that I'll never forget. In this business, you have moments in time. Winning the WWE Championship was a moment in time. The first time I wrestled at Madison Square Garden [April 24, 1999] was a moment in time.

In my personal life, I'm proud of two things. I'm proud of my daughter, Sierra. I'm so thankful for her. She came from a bad marriage, unfortunately; but something beautiful did come out of that. And I'm very thankful for my wife that I have now. And I'm not saying that just to kiss her ass because I'm married to her. Anybody that really knows me knows how lucky I am to have Bess as my partner, my best friend and my love. Believe me, she's the one that holds my boat together. If it wasn't for her, I'd have sunk a long time ago. ■



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 Intercontinental (WWEB31)  
 1986 Champion (WWEB32)

Kid-Size Replica \$109.00  
 Winged Eagle (WWEBK30)  
 Intercontinental (WWEBK31)

## ECW™ Championship Belts

## ECW World Championship Belt



Adult-Size Replica \$199.00  
 World Champion (ECWB1)  
 Tag Team Champion (ECWB3)  
 Television Champion (ECWB2)

## ECW World Tag Team Championship Belt



Deluxe Replica \$299.00  
 World Champion (ECWDB1)  
 Tag Team Champion (ECWDB3)  
 Television Champion (ECWDB2)

## ECW World Television Championship Belt



Kid-Size Replica \$109.00  
 World Champion (ECWB1)  
 Tag Team Champion (ECWB3)  
 Television Champion (ECWB2)

Mini Replica \$30.00  
 World Champion (ECWMINI1)  
 Tag Team Champion (ECWMINI3)  
 Television Champion (ECWMIN2)

## W Classic Championship Belts



Adult-Size Belt \$225.00  
 World Championship  
 Attitude Edition (WWEB20)  
 European Championship (WWEB23)  
 Smokin' Skull Championship (WWEB15)  
 Tag Team Championship (WWEB22)

Deluxe Belt \$369.00  
 World Championship  
 Attitude Edition (WWEDB20)  
 European Championship (WWEDB23)  
 Smokin' Skull Championship (WWEDB15)  
 Tag Team Championship (WWEDB22)

## Raw™ World Championship Belt (Version 2)



Nameplates Available:  
 Blank  
 Shawn Michaels  
 Triple H  
 Rob Van Dam  
 Steve Austin  
 Scott Steiner  
 Booker T  
 Kane  
 The Rock  
 Hogan  
 Ric Flair

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W logo

Adult-Size Replica WWEB17 \$225.00  
 Kid-Size Replica WWEBK17 \$109.00  
 Deluxe Replica WWEDB17 \$369.00  
 Mini Replica WWEMINI17 \$30.00

## Personalized Replica Belt Nameplates

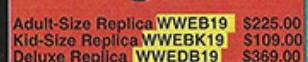
FIGURES TOY CO.

United States  
Championship Belt

Nameplates Available: Blank • John Cena  
 Kurt Angle • Billy Gunn • Matt Hardy  
 Chris Benoit • Rhyno • Sean O'Haire

World Tag Team  
Championship Belt

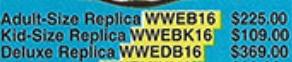
Nameplates Available: Blank • William Regal • Lance Storm • Chief Morley • Chris Jericho • Christian • Hurricane • Rob Van Dam • D-Von Dudley • Booker T • Goldust • Bubba Ray Dudley

Intercontinental  
Championship Belt

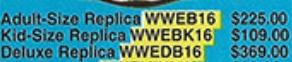
Nameplates Available: Blank • Booker T • Rob Van Dam • Kane • Chris Jericho • Goldust • Shawn Michaels

Nameplates Available: Blank • Billy Kidman • The Hurricane • Rey Mysterio • Jamie Noble • Tajiri

Nameplates Available: Blank • Lita • Ivory • Jazz • Trish Stratus • Molly Holly • Torrie Wilson • Stacy Keibler

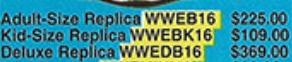
Cruiserweight  
Championship Belt

Nameplates Available: Blank • Billy Kidman • The Hurricane • Rey Mysterio • Jamie Noble • Tajiri

Women's  
Championship Belt

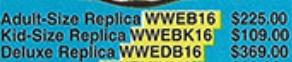
Nameplates Available: Blank • Lita • Ivory • Jazz • Trish Stratus • Molly Holly • Torrie Wilson • Stacy Keibler

Nameplates Available: Blank • Brock Lesnar • Triple H • Chris Jericho • Hogan • Undertaker • The Rock • Kurt Angle

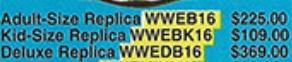


## Undisputed Championship Belt

Nameplates Available: Blank • Brock Lesnar • Triple H • Chris Jericho • Hogan • Undertaker • The Rock • Kurt Angle

Tag Team  
Championship Belt

Nameplates Available: Blank • Edge • Kurt Angle • Chris Benoit • Eddie Guerrero • John Cena • Matt Hardy • Rey Mysterio



## Cruiserweight /United States /Tag Team /Heavyweight /TV Championship Belts

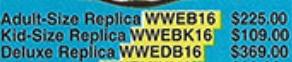
Deluxe Replica \$249.00  
 Adult-Size Replica \$199.00  
 Cruiserweight WCWDB4  
 United States WCWB3  
 Tag Team WCWB2

World Heavyweight WCWDB1  
 Adult-Size Replica \$199.00  
 World Heavyweight WCWB1  
 World Television WCWB5

Kid-Size Replica \$99.00  
 Mini Replica \$30.00  
 Cruiserweight WCWB4  
 United States WCWB3  
 Tag Team WCWB2

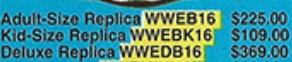
World Heavyweight WCWB1  
 Adult-Size Replica \$199.00  
 World Heavyweight WCWB1  
 World Television WCWB5

Version 1



## Deluxe Championship Replica Belts

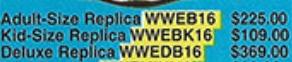
Adult-Size Replica WWEB9 \$225.00  
 Kid-Size Replica WWEBK9 \$109.00  
 Deluxe Replica WWEDB9 \$369.00  
 Mini Replica WWEMINI9 \$30.00



## Mini Championship Replica Belts

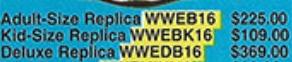
The mini replica belts are made from the same material as the full-size replica belts. Mini replicas are 12-inches long, and can be used as a wristband or for desktop display.

Adult-size and kid-size exact-scale replicas are made of simulated leather. Each medallion is made of metal and is 2mm thick. The adult-size replica fits up to a 46-inch waist and the kid-size replica fits up to a 34-inch waist.



## Adult-Size &amp; Kid-Size Championship Replica Belts

All deluxe belts are full-size. Straps are made of genuine leather. All medallions are made of metal that is 2mm thick. Each deluxe belt fits up to a 46-inch waist.



## Deluxe Championship Replica Belts

All deluxe belts are full-size. Straps are made of genuine leather. All medallions are made of metal that is 2mm thick. Each deluxe belt fits up to a 46-inch waist.

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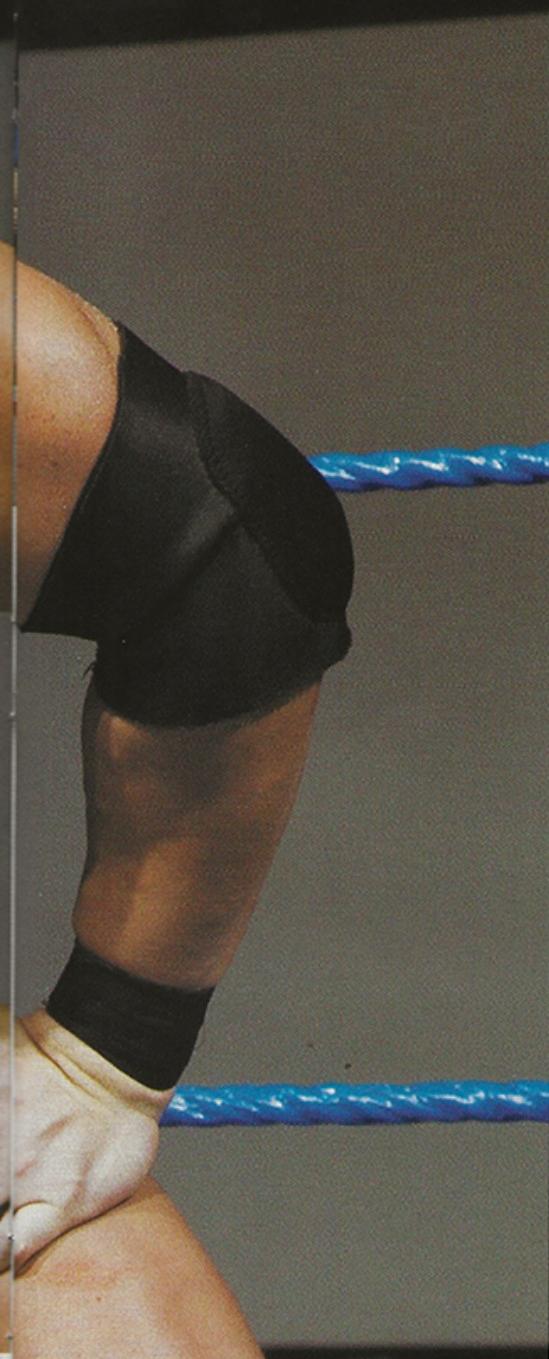
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# THE SCALED

The period between the *Royal Rumble* and *WrestleMania* is an anxious one for even the most seasoned Superstars. Time begins to move at an accelerated pace. Every match seems more crucial than the last. An unexpected loss just before the big card can obliterate a competitor's psyche. Media attention is relentless. Training is more intense. An injury acquired along the road to *WrestleMania* will likely be hidden; no one wants to be scratched from the card, and miss a chance to make history.

By Keith Elliot Greenberg

## BROCK DUBS HIMSELF “UNBEATABLE”

This year, **Brock Lesnar** appeared almost nonchalant—at least in public—about his role at *WrestleMania XX*. Despite his youth, he carried himself like a veteran who'd been through the pressure before. While other guys barely cracked a smile in the dressing room, Lesnar could be seen curling the side of his lip, chuckling to himself. Like always, his skin was flushed, and his body tensed; that was the way Lesnar looked whenever he engaged in combat. Yet he claimed to be less than intimidated by his mighty adversary, Bill Goldberg, or the event itself.

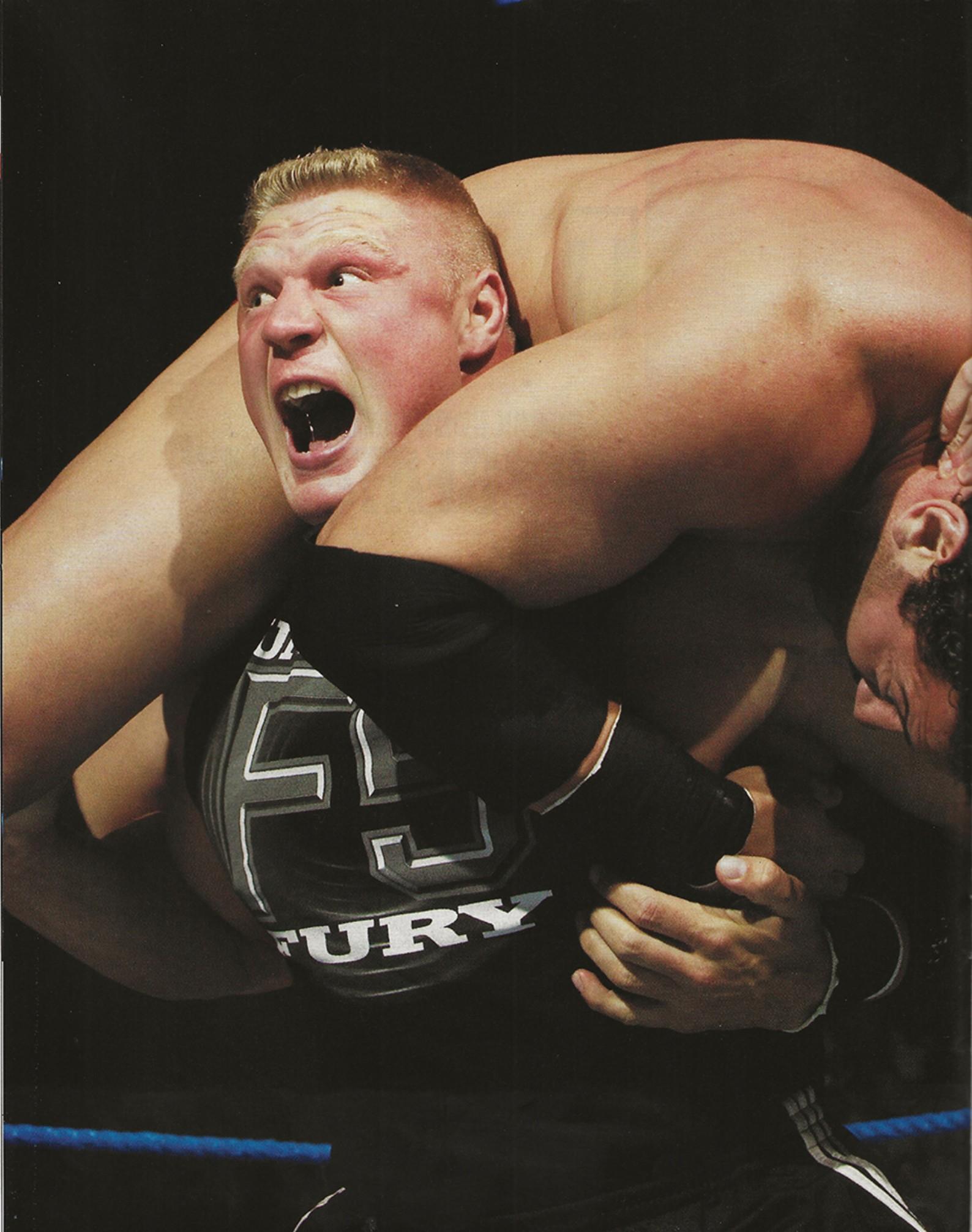
The significance of competing at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual *WrestleMania* almost seemed lost on Lesnar. It was as if he'd always expected to be there—in one of the top matches at New York's Madison Square Garden for perhaps the most important card that the company ever presented—from the day he made his WWE debut.

Perhaps Lesnar's confidence was rooted in something most mortals

cannot comprehend: a lifetime of winning virtually every competition he'd entered. Or maybe his poise was based on his experience of upending Kurt Angle for the WWE Championship a year ago at *WrestleMania XIX* in Seattle. During the course of that match, Brock knocked himself out when he missed a Shooting-Star Press, and still managed to spring back to life and continue the fray—instilling in every observer the perception that the farm boy chiseled from the ice of the upper Midwest was pretty close to indestructible. When the show was over, Angle was laying on a gurney with a broken neck, while Lesnar prepared to continue his frightful rampage through WWE.

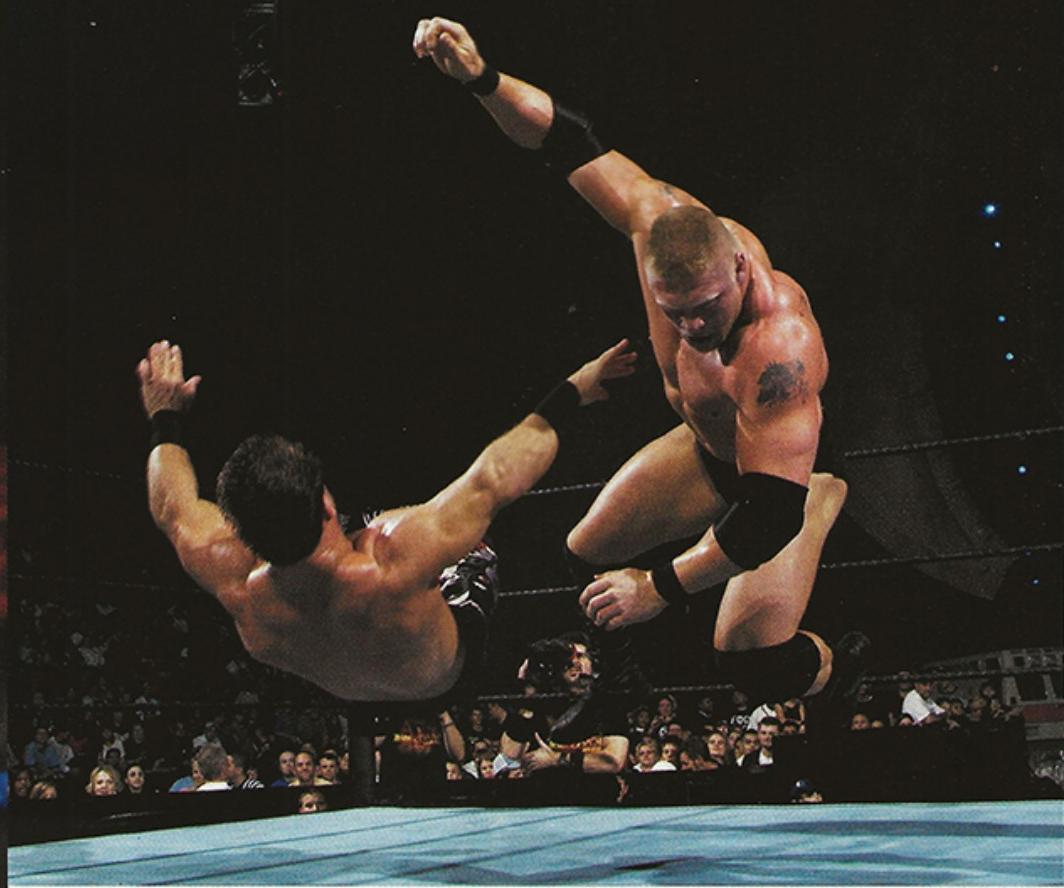
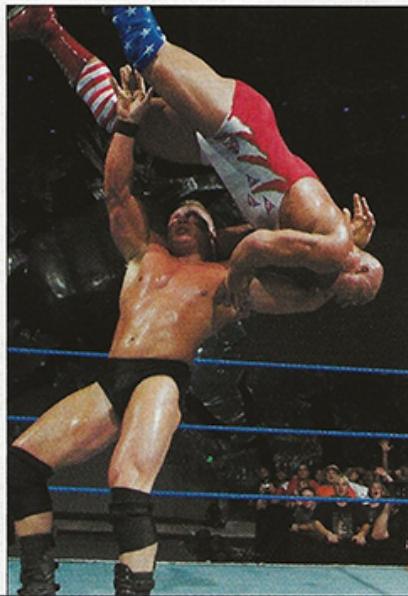
“All you have to do is look at my match against Kurt last year to figure out what I bring to *WrestleMania XX*,” Brock boasted. “What I bring to *WrestleMania XX* is one hell of an ass-whipping.”

In that respect, Lesnar has changed little from the man he was when he entered WWE in March





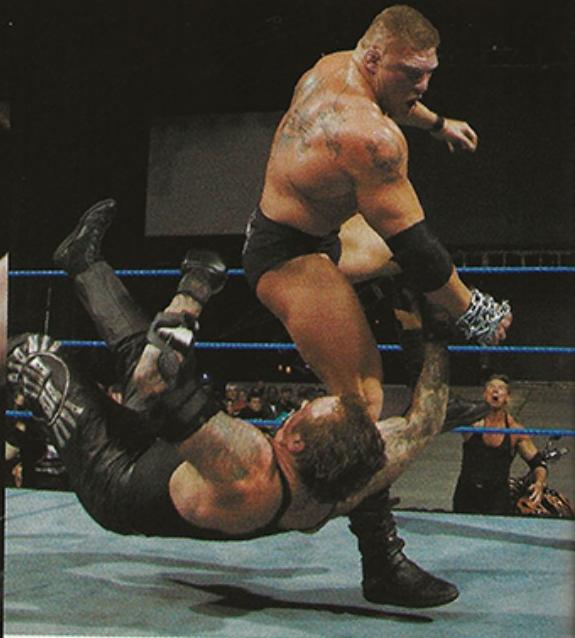
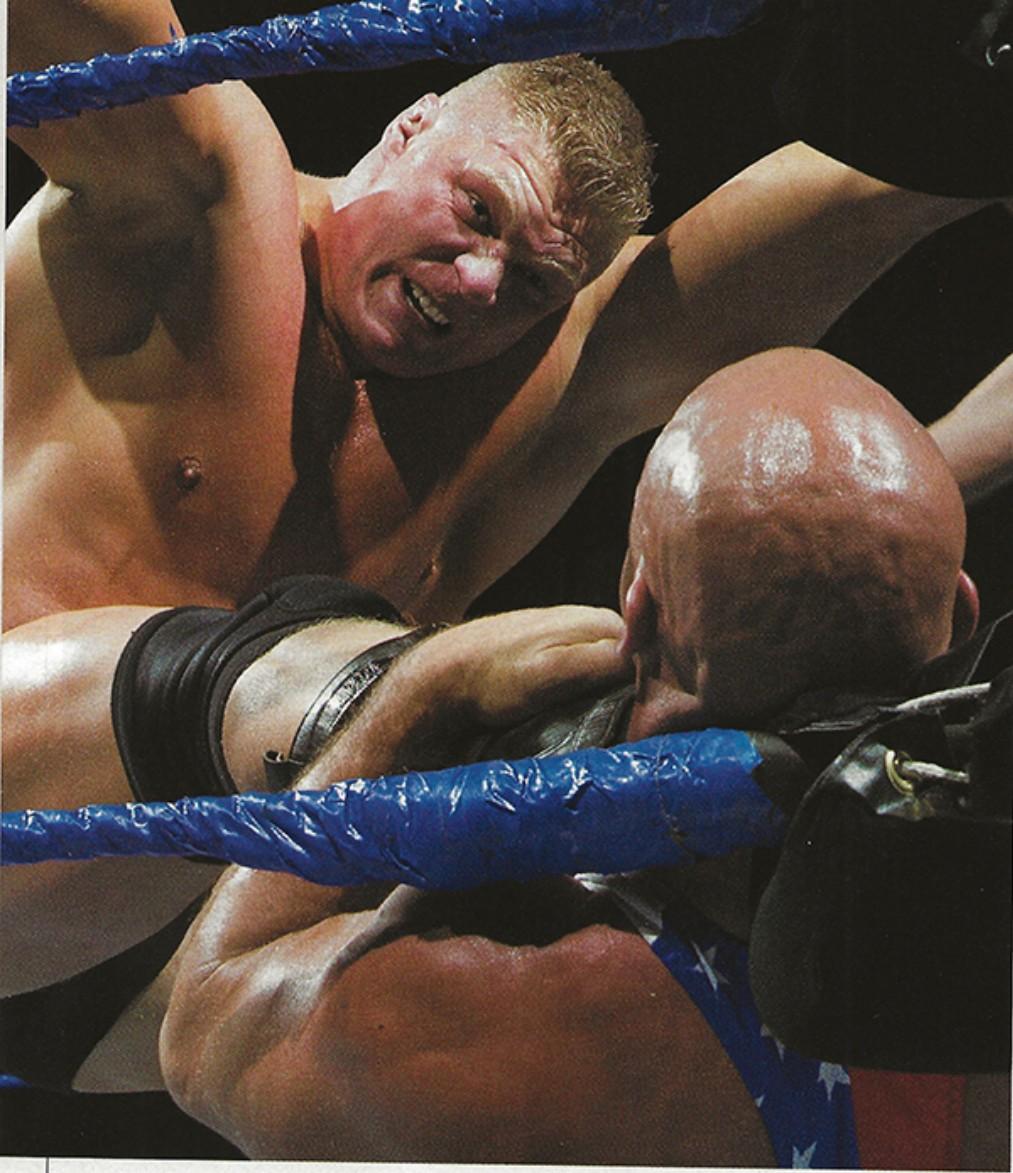
2002 after compiling an astonishing 50-2 record at the University of Minnesota, becoming a four-time All-American, and winning the 2000 NCAA heavyweight wrestling championship.



While many amateur greats from times past were not able to transition to the demands of the pro sport, Brock instinctively knew that he would excel. Instead of failure and disappointment, he'd follow the paths of men like Angle, Danny Hodge, Riki Choshu and Jack Brisco, amateur champions whose dominance in professional wrestling altered the very nature of the sport.

"It took me 19 years to achieve the pinnacle of amateur athletics, to become an NCAA Division I wrestling champion," Lesnar explained. "When I joined WWE, I brought my credibility and athleticism with me. I knew that there was no way I could achieve anything but greatness."

Almost instantly, Lesnar realized his dream. After blazing through the other tournament entries to become the 2002 King of the Ring, Lesnar was matched against The Rock at



SummerSlam later in the year. As with Goldberg at WrestleMania XX, Brock was facing a bona fide icon. That alone would make this bout a critical one. But there was one more factor at play—an opportunity few receive in their rookie year. The Rock entered SummerSlam as the WWE Champion. When the final bell sounded, 24-year-old Brock Lesnar was awarded the gold.

"Fifty years from now, I'll be remembered as the youngest WWE Champion ever," Lesnar said. "And if there ever is a younger man who manages to win the title, he'll be one lucky bastard. He certainly will not have earned it the way I did—by a combination of determination and pure skill. In a dream match against the Brock Lesnar of today, he'd lose his

championship very, very quickly."

Within three months, Brock would drop the crown to Big Show under controversial circumstances. While other athletes might have been discouraged, Lesnar continued to tear apart opponents. He operated on the assumption that the title would return to him eventually. He was right. The championship first bounced to Angle, who lost it to Lesnar at WrestleMania XIX. After Angle recaptured the gold at Vengeance in July 2003, Brock remained lock-step behind his rival, winning back the prize in the first Iron Man Match broadcast on SmackDown! in September.

When his peers watched Lesnar viciously bash Angle with a chair in the latter stages of the contest, setting up the Olympian for the

loss, more than a few shuddered. Some hoped to avoid a skirmish with Lesnar, opting to remain on the sidelines on the hope that he'd slip from his perch like Tommy Rich, Sycho Sid and others who couldn't maintain their spots after winning a major championship.

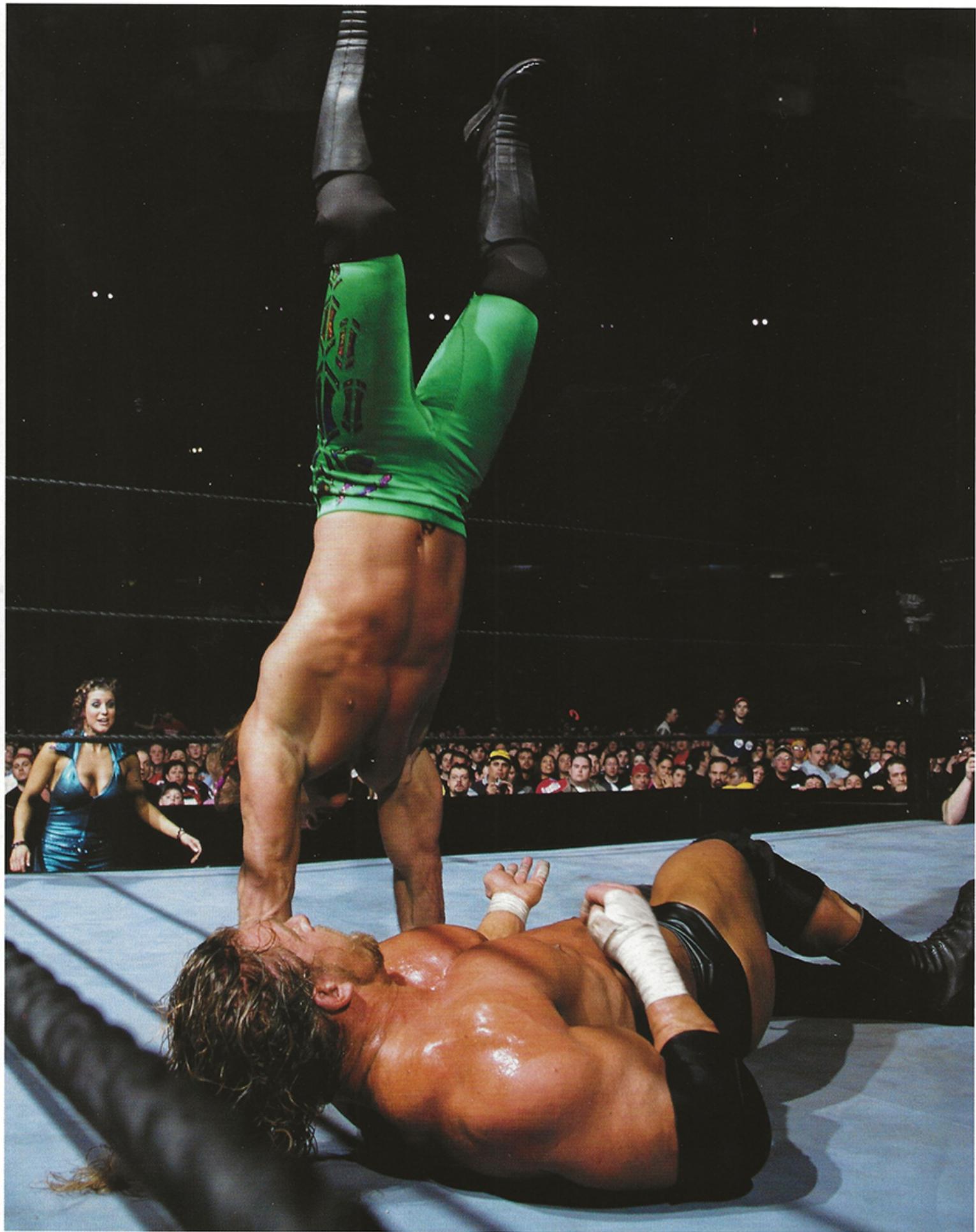
Then came the horrible realization: Lesnar would experience no sophomore jinx.

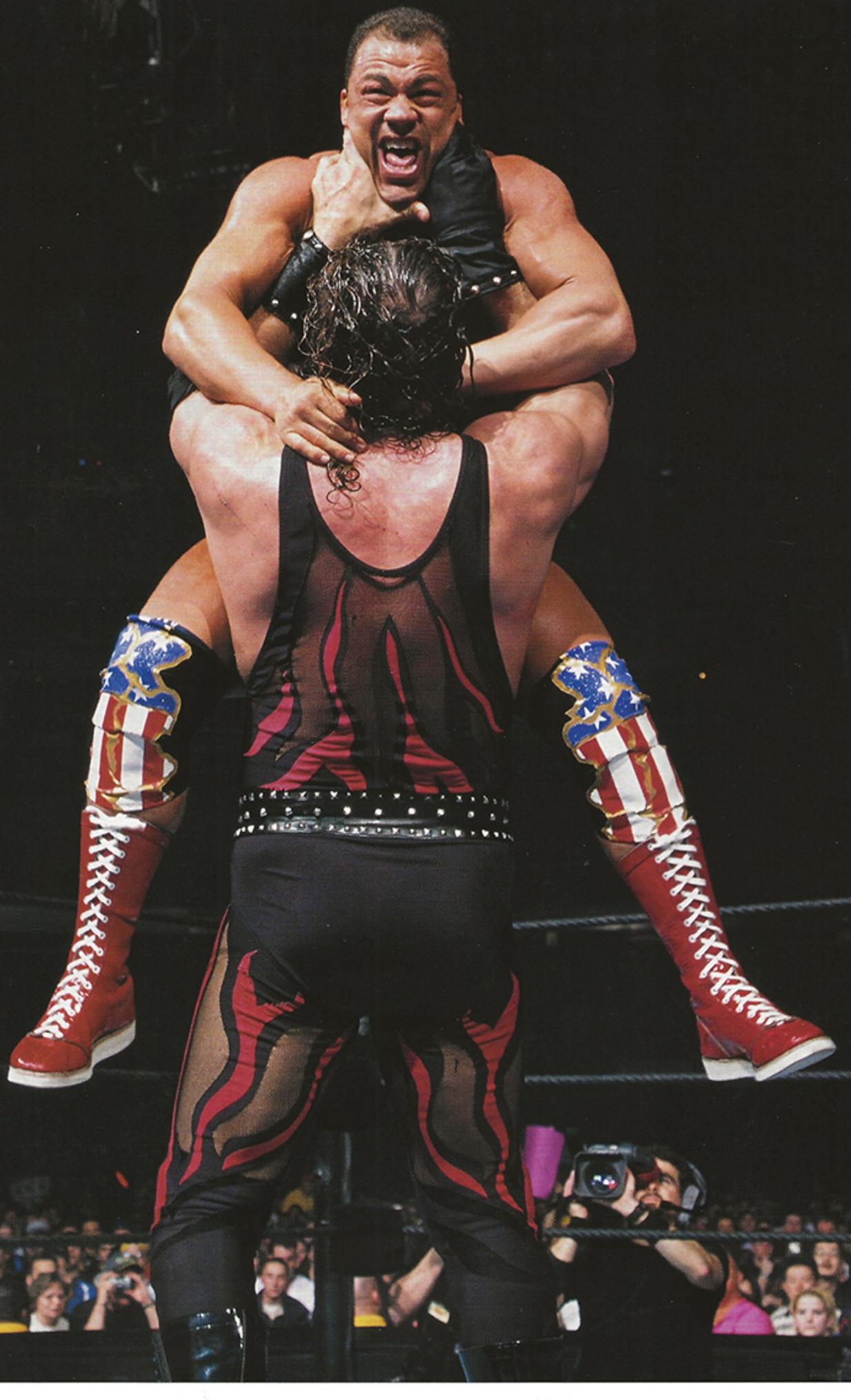
"What even is a sophomore jinx?" he asked with a sneer. "I'm a badass. I'm a damn machine. I'm always ready to go."

Lesnar is not the first to convey this attitude. Former WWE kingpins like Shawn Michaels, Hulk Hogan and Ultimate Warrior employed this rhetoric publicly, while Bob Backlund and Bruno Sammartino quietly adhered to the same belief as they defended their titles for years.

When asked about these men, Brock refused to discuss wrestling history, or measure himself against his championship predecessors.

"I'm very unique," he said. "I don't care who was the champion. I live for now. Look at it this way: I've only been in the business two years, and people are already comparing themselves to my legacy. Two years. Three championships. That's a pretty good legacy." ■







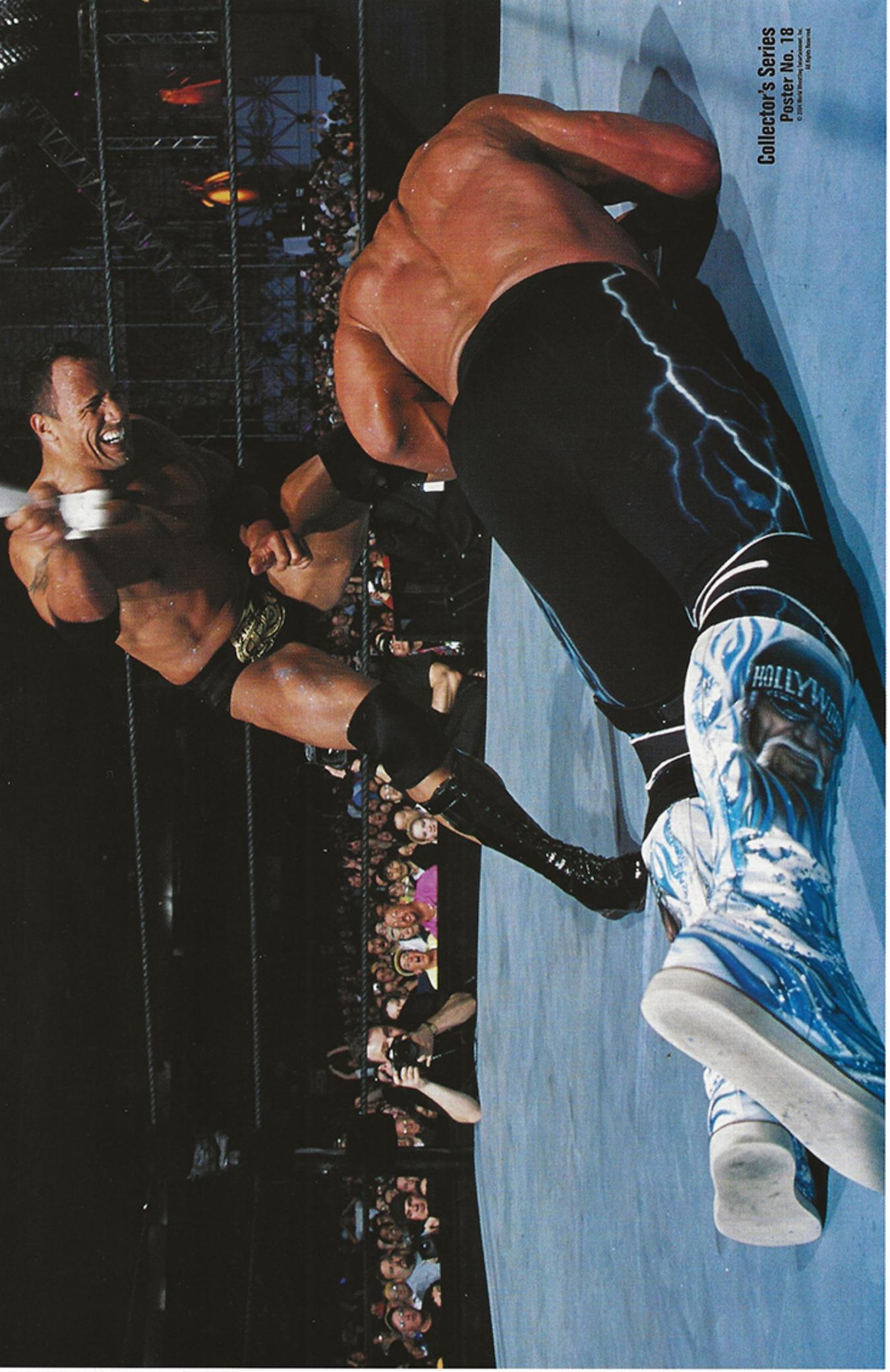
# WRESTLEMANIA X8

March 17, 2002  
SkyDome  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada



Collector's Series  
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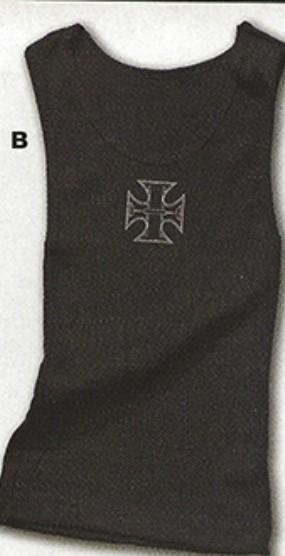
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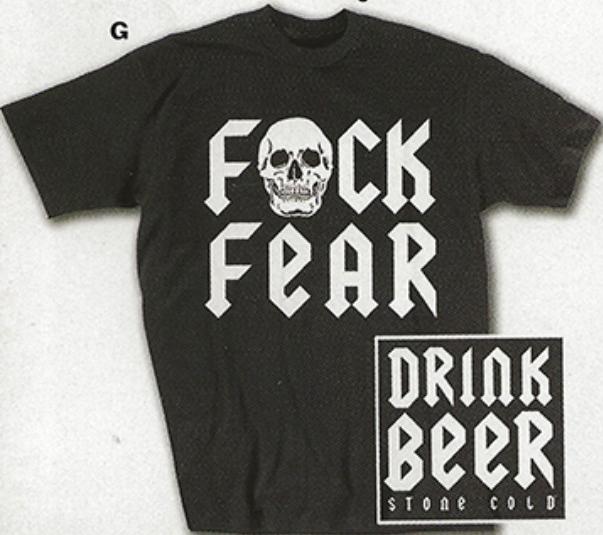
**C**



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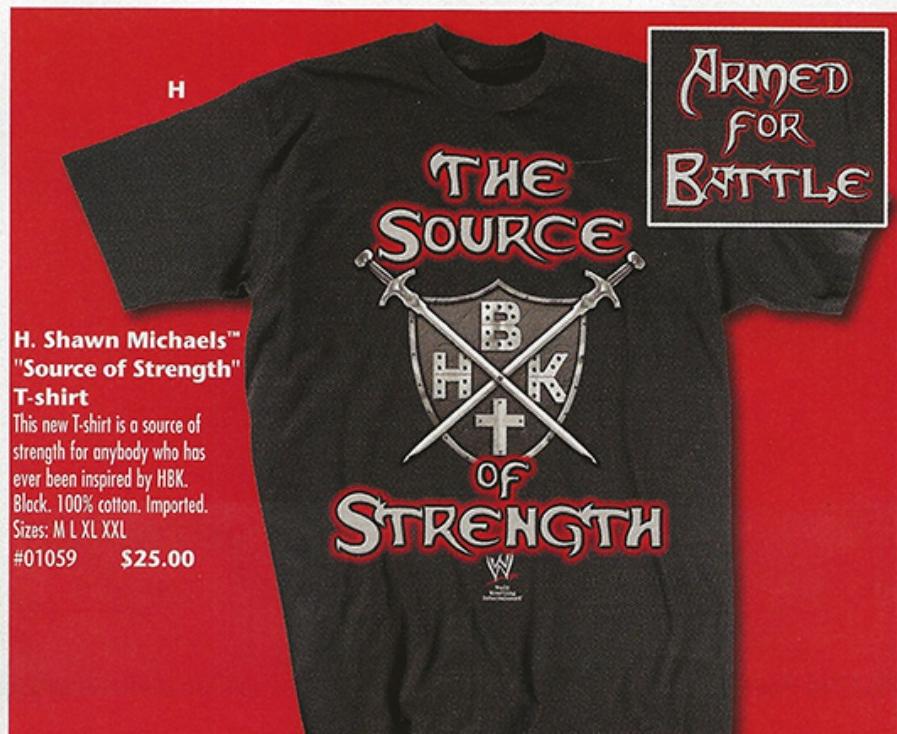
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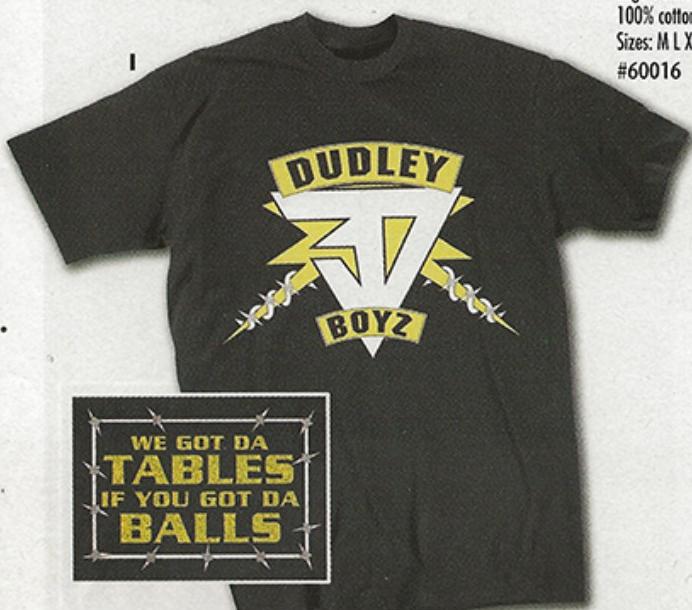
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**"Dragon Ying Yang" T-shirt**  
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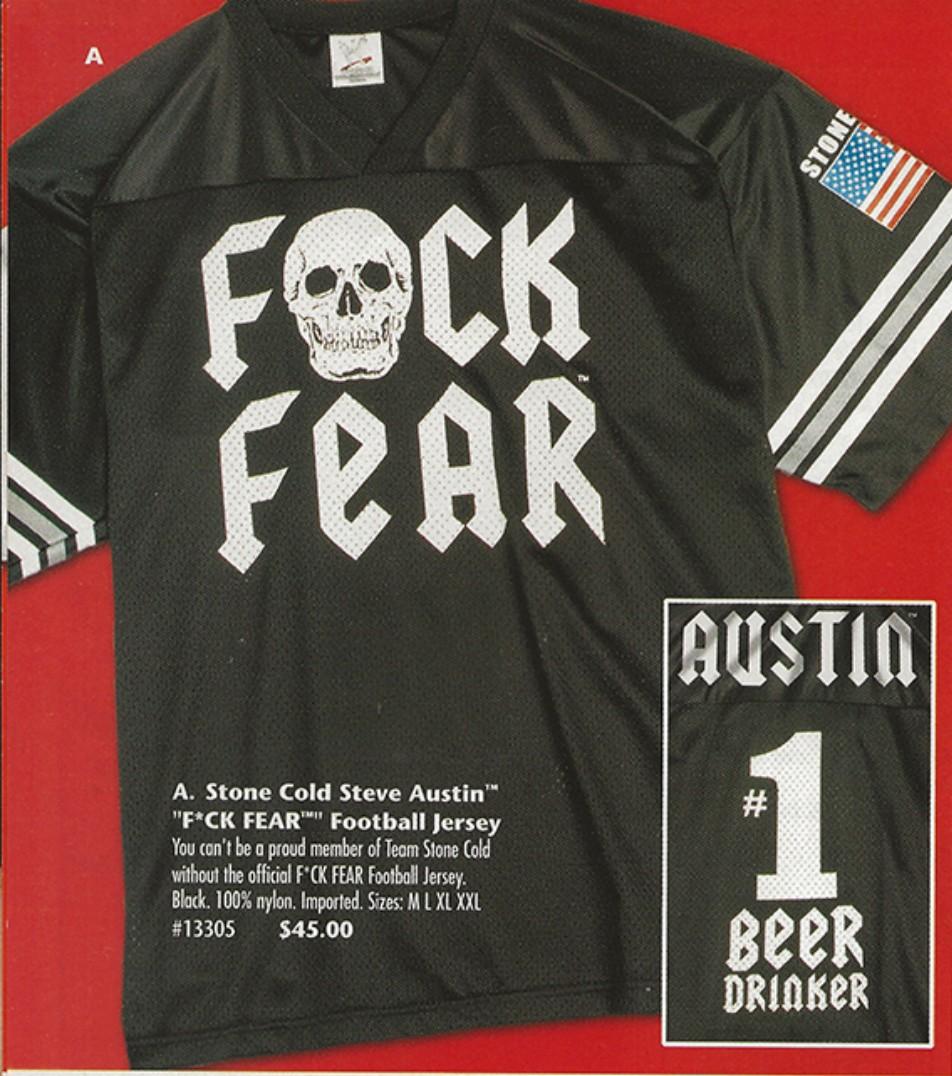
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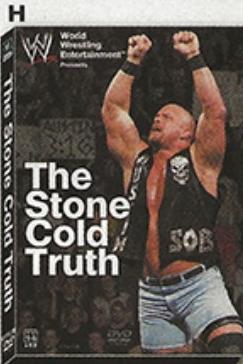
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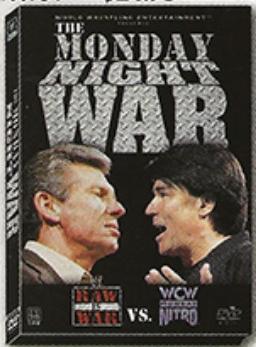
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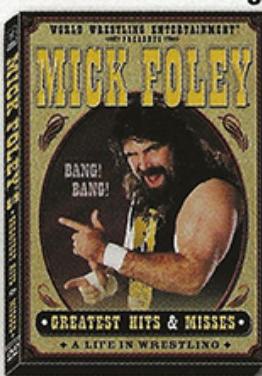


J

## D. New! Stone Cold Steve Austin™ Floor Mat

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## F. Lita™ "Heart" Pendant

This high-flying WWE Diva all heart and you can be too, when you wear this hot pendant. Antiqued silver tone. 18" L link chain with toggle closure.

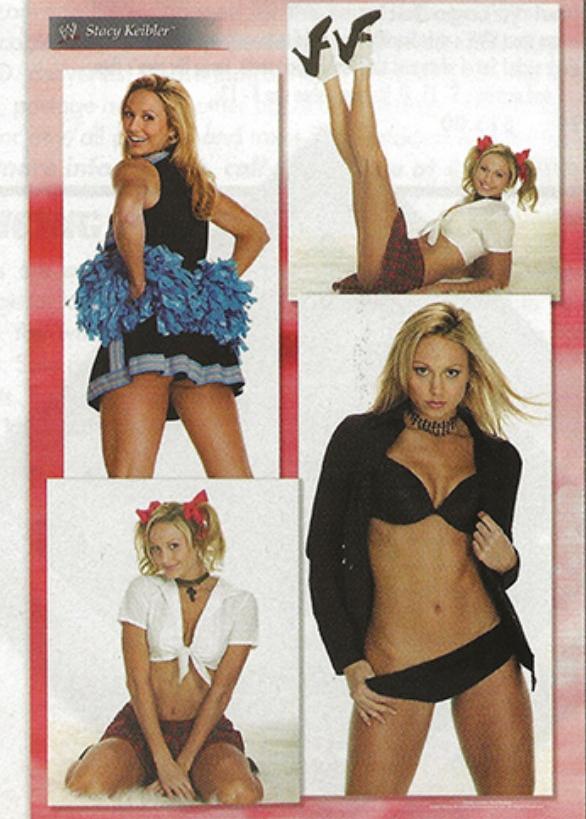
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## G. Shawn Michaels™ "Cross" Pendant

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M



## M. New!

### Stacy Keibler™ Poster Collage

Our new Stacy Keibler poster collage speaks for itself: Stacy is as hot as they come, and this poster is simply smokin'! 24" x 36".

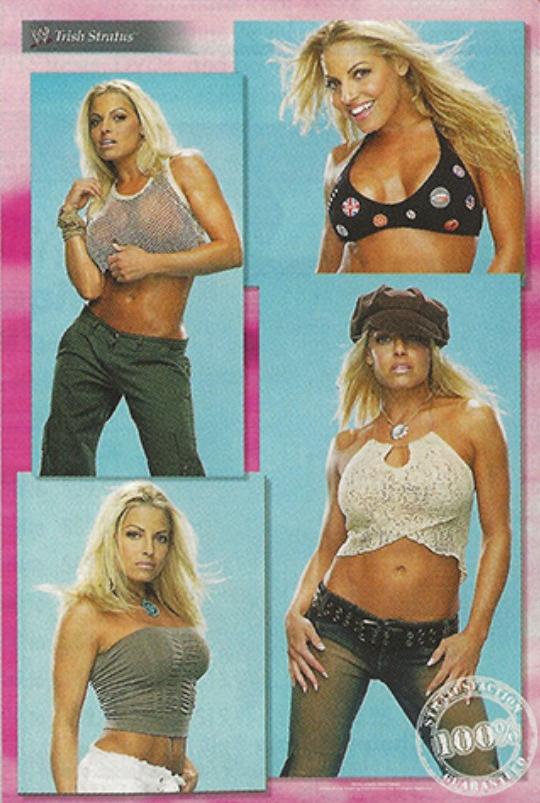
#88082 \$10.00

## N. New!

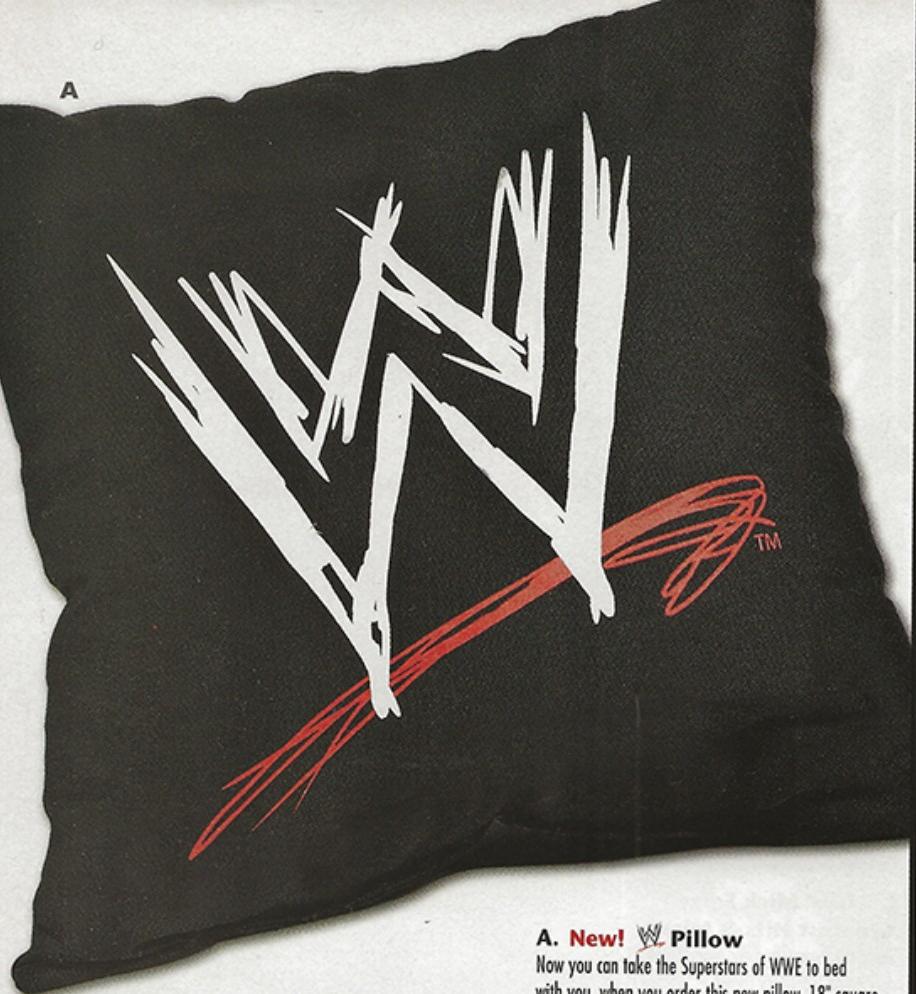
### Trish Stratus™ Poster Collage

If a picture paints a thousand words, our new Trish Stratus poster collage speaks volumes about the three-time Diva of the Year! 24" x 36".

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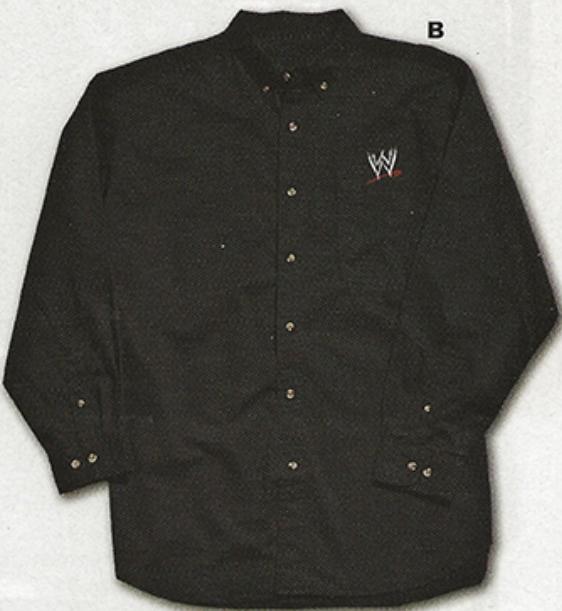
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Now you can take the Superstars of WWE to bed with you, when you order this new pillow. 18" square. Cotton/Polyester. Domestic.

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B

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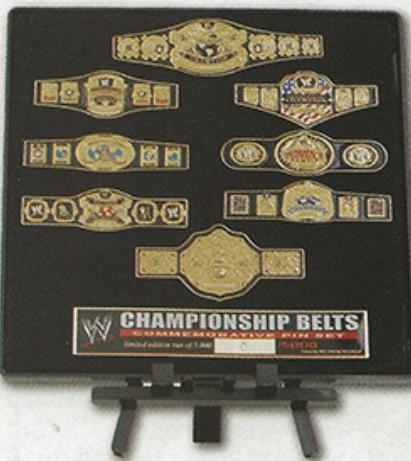
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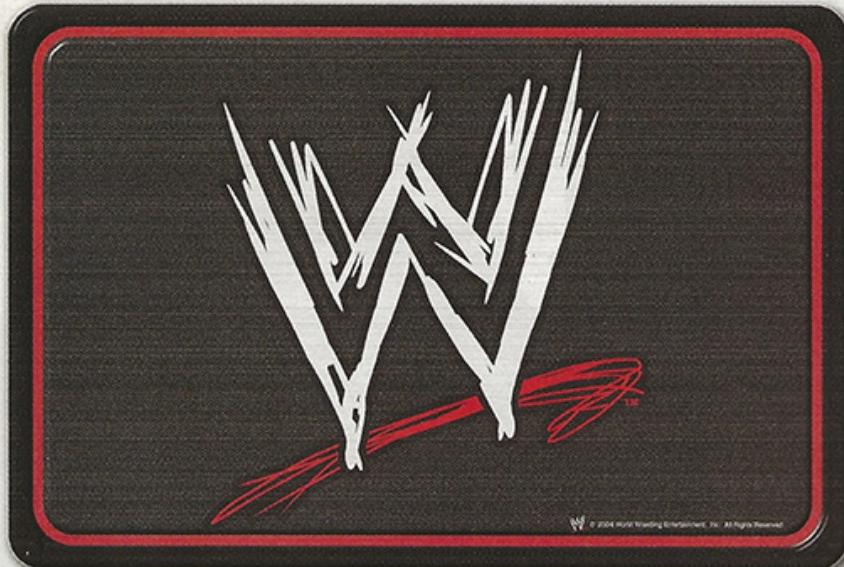
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H





D



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**E. New! Diva Logo Ribbed Tank Top**  
Show off what you got like a WWE Diva. 2 x 1 rib 100% combed cotton.  
Sizes: M L XL  
#88079    \$20.00



#### I. Stone Cold Steve Austin™ Replica Belt

Belt has white simulated snakeskin back. Fits up to a 46 in. waist. Belt comes in a cloth bag with WWE logo on it. 4 ft. 6 in. in length. Weighs 4 lbs.

#13280    \$235.00



#### J. Winged Eagle Replica Belt

Limited edition. Fits up to a 46 in. waist. Measures 4 ft. 9 in. length; weighs over 5 lbs.

#00667    \$249.00



#### K. World Heavyweight Replica Belt

Exact-scale replica molded from the original championship belt. Fits up to a 46 in. waist. Simulated leather. Comes with its own cloth carry bag. Measures 4 ft. 8 in. long, weighs approx. 5 lbs.

#00677    \$225.00



#### L. Title Replica Belt

Exact-scale replica that measures 4 ft. 8 in. long and weighs approx. 5 lbs. Strap made of simulated leather. Medallions are ornamented by 10 simulated diamonds. Fits up to a 46 in. waist.

#00582    \$239.00

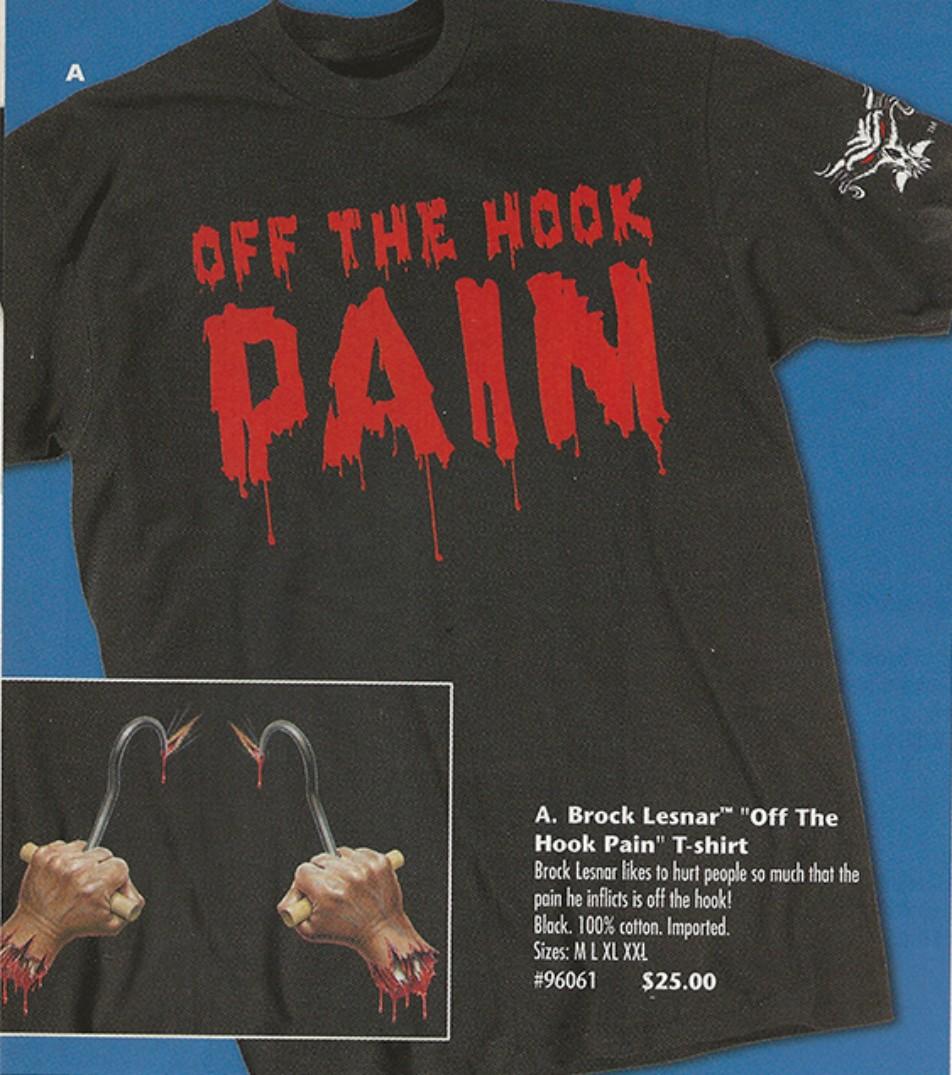
#### M. Classic Intercontinental Replica Belt

Taken from a mold of the original belt and contains the original block letter logos. It measures 4 ft. 2 in. in length and weighs over 5 lbs. The strap is made out of our new-and-improved simulated leather. Fits up to a 46 in. waist. Belt comes with a cloth bag. Limited edition.

#00668    \$249.00



A

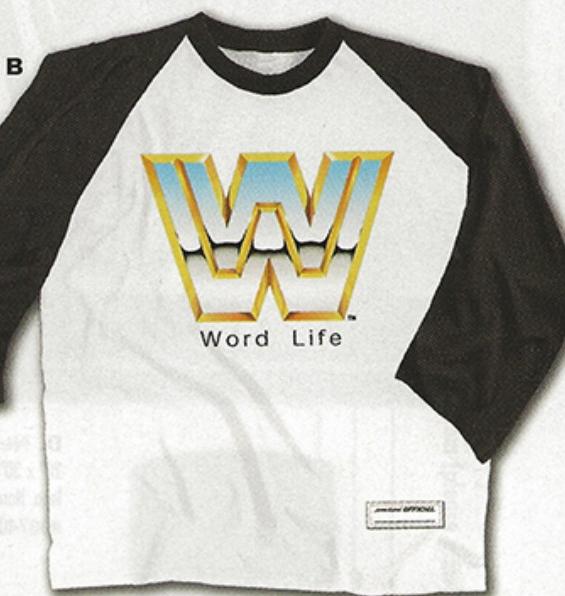


**A. Brock Lesnar™ "Off The Hook Pain" T-shirt**

Brock Lesnar likes to hurt people so much that the pain he inflicts is off the hook!  
Black. 100% cotton. Imported.  
Sizes: M L XL XXL

#96061      \$25.00

**SMACKDOWN™** SMACK YOUR TV™  
THURSDAYS 8PM ET, 7PM CT  
ONLY ON UPN



**B. John Cena™ Baseball T-shirt**

No need for a description on this shirt - it simply sells itself.  
Black/White. 100% cotton. 3/4 raglan sleeves. Imported.  
Sizes: M L XL XXL

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**E. Big Show™ "Chicks Dig It Big" T-shirt**

If you like what is larger than life, you'll love the Show, and his new shirt.  
Black. 100% cotton. Imported.  
Sizes: XL XXL XXXL

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**F. Retro Undertaker® "Cross" T-shirt**

If your kicking yourself for not getting the Undertaker "Cross" T-shirt the first time around, WWE is giving you a second chance as part of its line of Retro T-shirts.  
Black. 100% cotton. Imported.

Sizes: M L XL XXL  
#03014      \$25.00

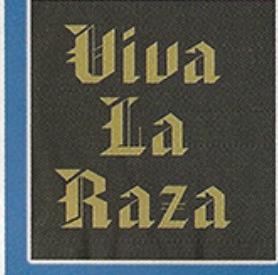
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C



**C. Rey Mysterio™  
Workout Pants**  
Elastic/drawstring waist. Heather grey.  
90% cotton 10% polyester.  
Domestic. Sizes: M L XL XXL  
#96041 \$35.00



**D. Los Guerreros™  
"Viva La Raza" T-shirt**  
They lie, they cheat, they steal, and Los  
Guerreros look damn good in their Viva  
La Raza T-shirt - and so can you.  
Black. 100% cotton. Imported.  
Sizes: M L XL XXL  
#86006 \$25.00



**G. Rey Mysterio™ "Doin It 619 Style™" T-shirt**  
Order this great Rey Mysterio T-shirt today! Black. Front and back logos  
glow in the dark. 100% cotton. Imported. Sizes: M L XL XXL  
#96059 \$25.00

ALSO IN BLACK!



**H. Undertaker® Hooded Sweatshirt**

If you think you have what it takes to join the Big Evil Pain Sin-Dicate,  
order this sweatshirt and let the beatings begin! 90% cotton/10% Polyester.  
Imported. Sizes: M L XL XXL \$40.00

Red #03125  
Black #03129





A

**A. NEW!**

**Torrie™ Poster Collage**  
For those who wish that they could get up close and personal with Torrie Wilson, this poster collage is the next best thing! 24" x 36".  
#88081 \$10.00

**SMACKDOWN™** **SMACK your TV™**  
THURSDAYS 8PM ET/7PM CT  
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**B. NEW!**

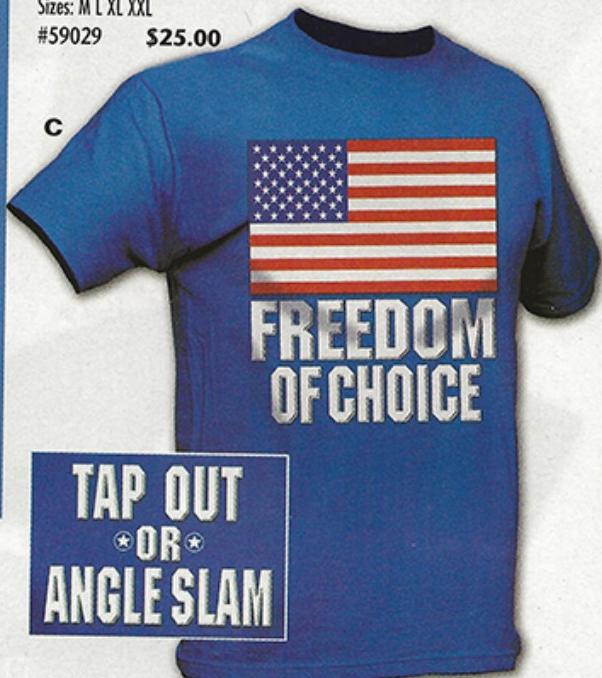
**Brock Lesnar™ Skull Pendant**  
Order the new Brock Lesnar skull pendant so everybody knows when the pain is coming. Silvertone pendant on 20" L rope cord.  
#96062 \$10.00

B

**C. Kurt Angle™ "Freedom Of Choice" T-shirt**

Royal Blue. 100% cotton. Imported.  
Sizes: M L XL XXL  
#59029 \$25.00

C



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F

**F. Undertaker® Big Evil Skull Cap**

Black. 100% acrylic. Imported.  
Sizes: M L XL XXL  
#03128 \$20.00

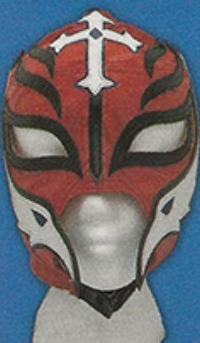
**G. Rey Mysterio™ Replica Masks**

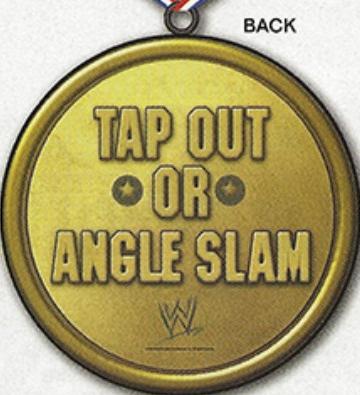
If you ever wished you could be more like Rey Mysterio, now we help you get there with a series of Replica Masks that leaves you a 619 away from being just like the man himself! Full size replicas of the masks that the master of "619" wears. Stretch faux leather with velcro closure under the chin. Fits most adult heads.

**\$99.00 each**

<b>NEW!</b> Black	#96060
White	#96050
Red	#96049
Silver	#96051

G





**D. NEW! Kurt Angle™ Gold Medal**

Kurt Angle proved that he does not suck by winning the gold - now you can do the same! 2" Goldtone pendant on 30" L red, white and blue ribbon.

#59030 \$10.00

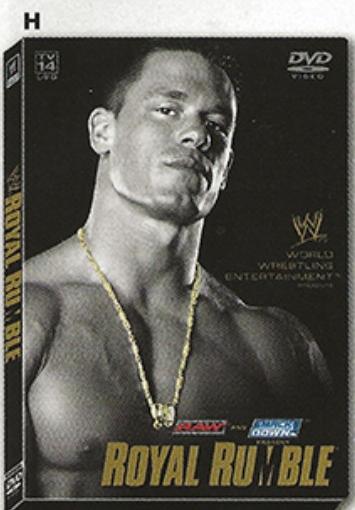
**E. NEW! John Cena™**

"Word Life™"

**Lock Pendant**

Those of you who are down with Thugonomics can't see this - unless you order the John Cena Word Life Lock Pendant. Silvertone pendant on 22" L link chain.

#06010 \$10.00



**H. NEW! Royal Rumble® Video**

Order one of the most exciting Pay-Per-View events of the year and relive all of the action!

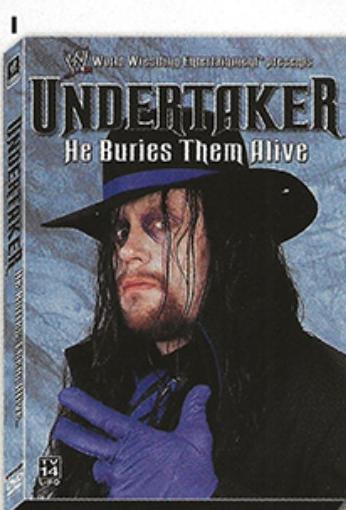
VHS approx. 3 hrs.

#00741 \$19.95

DVD approx. 3 hrs.

15 min.

#00742 \$24.95



**I. NEW! Undertaker® He Buries Them Alive DVD**

Relive the beginning of one of the most storied careers in the history of sports-entertainment.

Run time approx 60 min.

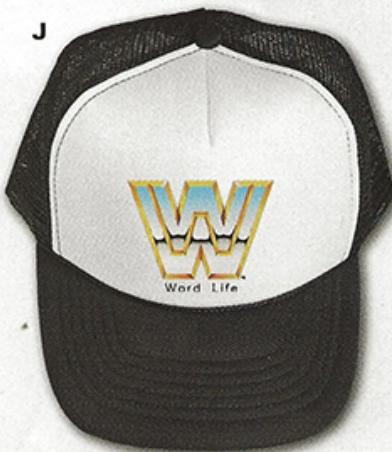
#03130 \$9.98



**K. Rey Mysterio™ 619™ Pendant**

619 is more than an area code, it is a lifestyle - the new Rey Mysterio pendant is everything 619 stands for! Silvertone pendant on 27" link chain.

#96022 \$10.00



**J. John Cena™ Trucker Cap**

John Cena is representing the "old school" of wrestling with this new classic-looking logo design. Mesh/Foam. Snap closure. Imported.

#06008 \$20.00



**L. NEW!**

**John Cena™**

**Skull Cap**

100% Acrylic. Imported.

#06015 \$20.00



**A. Rey Mysterio™  
Stuffed Bear**

This Rey Mysterio plush bear is so 619 that it even has Rey Mysterio's tattoos. 17" tall. 100% polyester, 100% cotton, and leatherette. Imported.

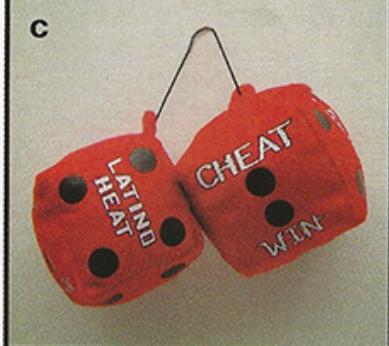
#96058      \$20.00



**B. John Cena™  
Stuffed Bear**

Get this bear and represent everything that "Word Life" is all about. 17" tall. 100% polyester, 100% cotton, and 100% nylon. Imported.

#06006      \$20.00



**C. NEW! Los Guerreros™  
Fuzzy Dice**

They lie, they cheat, they steal - and they do it from behind the wheel of custom low-rider, complete with fuzzy dice. 100% polyester. Plush. 3" square.

#86005      \$8.00



**D. NEW! Rey Mysterio™ Street Sign**

All signs point to the fact that Rey Mysterio is a WWE mega-superstar - including this street sign. 5" x 24". Aluminum.

#96063      \$10.00



**E. NEW! John Cena™ Street Sign**

Make your street a little meaner with the John Cena street sign. 5" x 24". Aluminum.

#06011      \$10.00



**F. NEW! John Cena™  
Wristband and  
Headband Set**

There is no better way to bone up on Thugonomics than by wearing the new John Cena Wristband/Headband set. Terry-cotton/polyester. Set of two 2 3/4" wristbands and one 2 1/4" headband. Black. One size fits most.

#06013      \$12.00

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BY KEITH ELLIOT GREENBERG

# DANCE PARTY

## THE REAL STORY BEHIND THE WORM-STINKFACE REUNION

**With each hour,** the pain that had sidelined Scotty 2 Hotty seemed to diminish. It was wishful thinking, of course, but the hours couldn't go by fast enough. His sabbatical from WWE was tolerable at first. He'd been in so much agony from his accumulated neck injuries that he actually welcomed the time to recuperate. But those days had faded, and, now, Scotty just needed to get back.

He looked at the collection of Superstars on the *SmackDown!* roster, from Brock Lesnar, Undertaker and John Cena, to Eddie Guerrero, Big Show and the World's Greatest Tag Team. It was an overwhelming collection of talent, and Scotty wondered where he'd fit in. As a former WWE Light Heavyweight Champion, he contemplated throwing himself into contention for the Cruiserweight title. Or, if he was feeling particularly bold, he could zero in on the WWE Championship. Others in the past, like Shannon Moore, had embarked on the same endeavor with less-than-stellar results. But Scotty told himself that he was different.

Then, one day, close to the time that he was scheduled to make his official comeback, Scotty received a call from an old friend. It was Rikishi. He was also home, recovering from eye surgery. At first, they innocently discussed times past, in particular their partnership in 1999 and 2000, when they teamed with "Grandmaster Sexay" Brian Christopher. There'd been a lot of fanfare surrounding the trio, and both Scotty and Rikishi had a blast. As they chuckled over a road story, Scotty suddenly became deadly serious.

"It only makes sense," he said to Rikishi, "for us to join up again."

Several months later, the idea has become reality. While others can't recapture the past, Scotty and Rikishi believe that the present is even better. The sight of the pair dancing after a victory reminds fans of the "Attitude" era they both represented. But the duo is much more than a nostalgic act.

"Because we were both home recovering, we had a lot of time to think about what we'd do when that bell rang," Scotty says. "If you watch us closely, you'll see that, as a tag team, we're smoother than we were before. We still get an unbelievable reaction. And I think it's because most people are too serious today. It's time to do something that's a little fun."

The pair had first met in 1996. Scotty was a lifelong WWE fan who'd sent the company a letter as a child, inquiring about a way to become part of the action. Rikishi—the nephew of former WWE Tag Team Champions Afa & Sika (the Wild Samoans), and



cousin of former WWE champ Yokozuna—had been bouncing around the business for several years. He was wrestling under a mask as the Sultan at the time, and noticed Scotty—who was just getting his feet wet in the industry—sitting in the airport in Montreal.

"My bag had gotten lost, and my ride ditched me," Scotty says. "Rikishi waited there all day with me, until my bag arrived, then drove me to the arena."

Scotty went on to form Too Cool—a rowdy combination destined for the Tag Team Championship—with Grandmaster Sexay. But Rikishi was never far away, doing his own thing, like smothering opponents with his notorious Stinkface. At a certain point, the hulking Pacific Islander merged with the hip-hoppers and burned up arenas around the world.

"Brian and I used to like to dance," Scotty says. "Then, Rikishi began dancing with us, and he was probably the best dancer of the three."

In the excitement of a match, Scotty was prone to wiggle on the canvas, and entertain a crowd with his version of The Worm. But, with Rikishi egging him on, the routine took on a new dimension.

"Everything came together, piece by piece," Scotty says. "I'd knock down my opponent, and the crowd would spell out, 'W-O-R-M.' Then, I'd move my arms back and forth, while the crowd went, 'Hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo' And finally, I'd chop the other guy across the chest."

It was an age in WWE that many now romanticize, with Stone Cold Steve Austin giving Vince McMahon the double-finger, The Rock threatening to stick objects up an antagonist's "candy ass," and Mick Foley plummeting off cages. Scotty loved it, even as his body rebelled against the furious pace of his matches.

He doesn't remember when he first ruptured his disc. But, the longer he ignored the pain, the worse it became. "On some nights, I had no pain," he says. "On other nights, I'd get in the car, and couldn't turn my head."

He missed four months in 2001. After he returned to the



ring, he found that the problems persisted. On May 7, 2002, four of his discs were fused together. Scotty's surgeon, Dr. Lloyd Youngblood, told him that he'd be on the disabled list for at least a year.

"I knew it was a long injury, and was ready to deal with it," Scotty says. "Mentally, I was okay, until WrestleMania XIX. Other guys who'd had neck surgery, like Steve Austin and Chris Benoit, told me not to even watch the show because it would make me frustrated. Well, I had to watch. And after that, I couldn't think about anything else except coming back."

Aware that he'd been untested for a lengthy stretch of time, Scotty headed to Ohio Valley Wrestling (OVW), WWE's developmental territory, as soon as he received medical clearance. Matched against young, hungry athletes, he quickly regained his edge. Now, there was another conversation with Rikishi.

"I want to go to WWE," Scotty said to him, "and show the people what they've been missing while we've been away."

Thus far, the pair's chemistry is close to flawless. Scotty seems lighter on his feet than ever before, maneuvering his wiry form to slip out of full nelsons and armlocks, surprising charging opponents with drop toeholds, and blasting rivals with *enziguris*—or crescent kicks—when they dare venture too close.

Rikishi spends his time rocketing off the ropes, leveling rivals with sidekicks, crunching people with Samoan drops, and using his strength to lift two foes at once and take them to the canvas with double suplexes.

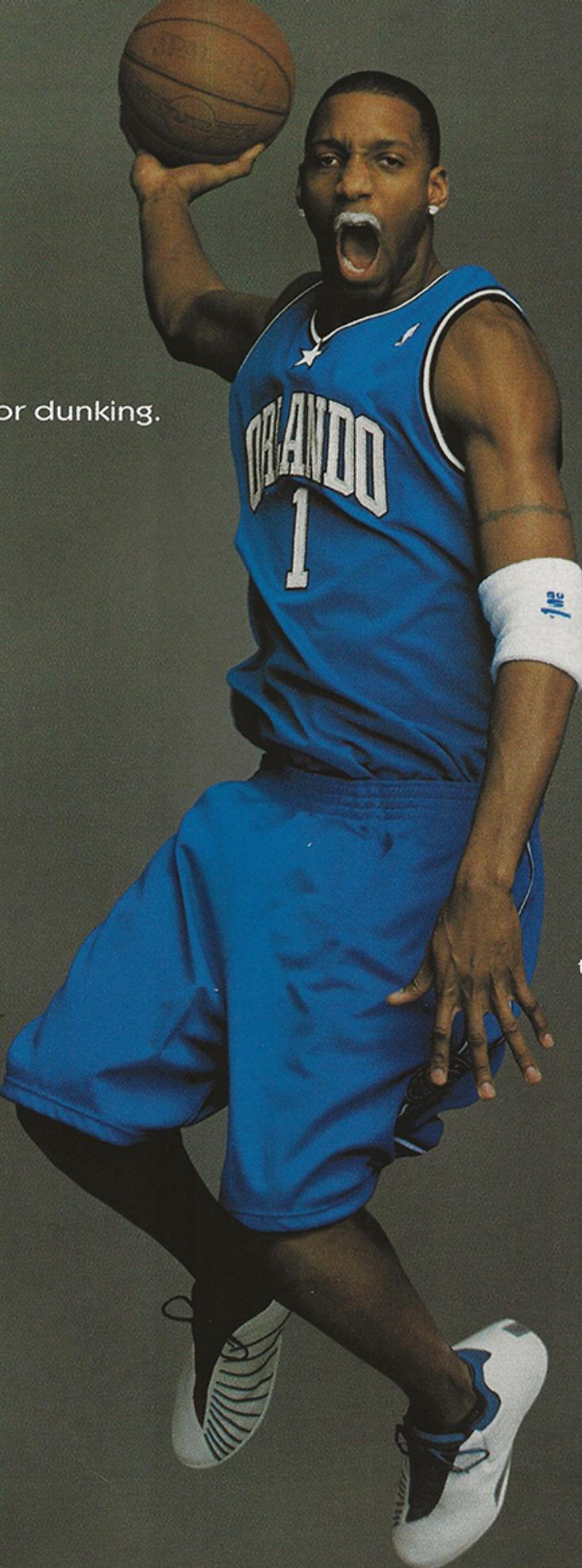
In one recent match, he stacked both opponents in the corner, charged backward, and gave each a separate Stinkface.

"I love when we bring the kids in the ring after we win, and have them dance with us," Scotty says. "Two minutes earlier, they were watching the show. Now, they're part of it."

Occasionally, during these spectacles, the pair will notice their opponents dragging themselves toward the dressing room, and looking back at the dance number in disgust.

"That's fine with me," Scotty says. "Because they can't do anything to stop our energy. They might be strong, they might be tough, they might be technical. But Rikishi and I can do a lot more than dance." ■



A dynamic photograph of NBA player Tracy McGrady in mid-air, performing a powerful dunk. He is wearing a blue Orlando Magic jersey with the number 1 and the word "ORLANDO" across the chest. His mouth is wide open in a shout, and he is holding a basketball in his right hand. He is wearing blue shorts, white socks, and white sneakers with blue accents. A white wristband with the number "1" is visible on his left wrist.

Great for dunking.

My friends told  
me, "T-Mac, you're  
gonna be big some day."  
Must've been the milk.

About 15% of your  
height is added as a  
teen and the calcium and  
vitamin D can help.  
Will drinking a cool glass  
of milk make you the  
hottest scorer in town?

Hey, it couldn't hurt.

got milk?

## Rush Hour

### WrestleMania XIX

### Seattle, Washington

### March 30, 2003

Anyone who's been to Safeco Field in Seattle knows that the stadium is built close to the train tracks. In fact, when one attends a Mariners game in the recently built complex, intense rumbles vibrate through the stadium during pretty much every other inning. On March 30, 2003, there was one train that didn't just go by Safeco... it went right through it.

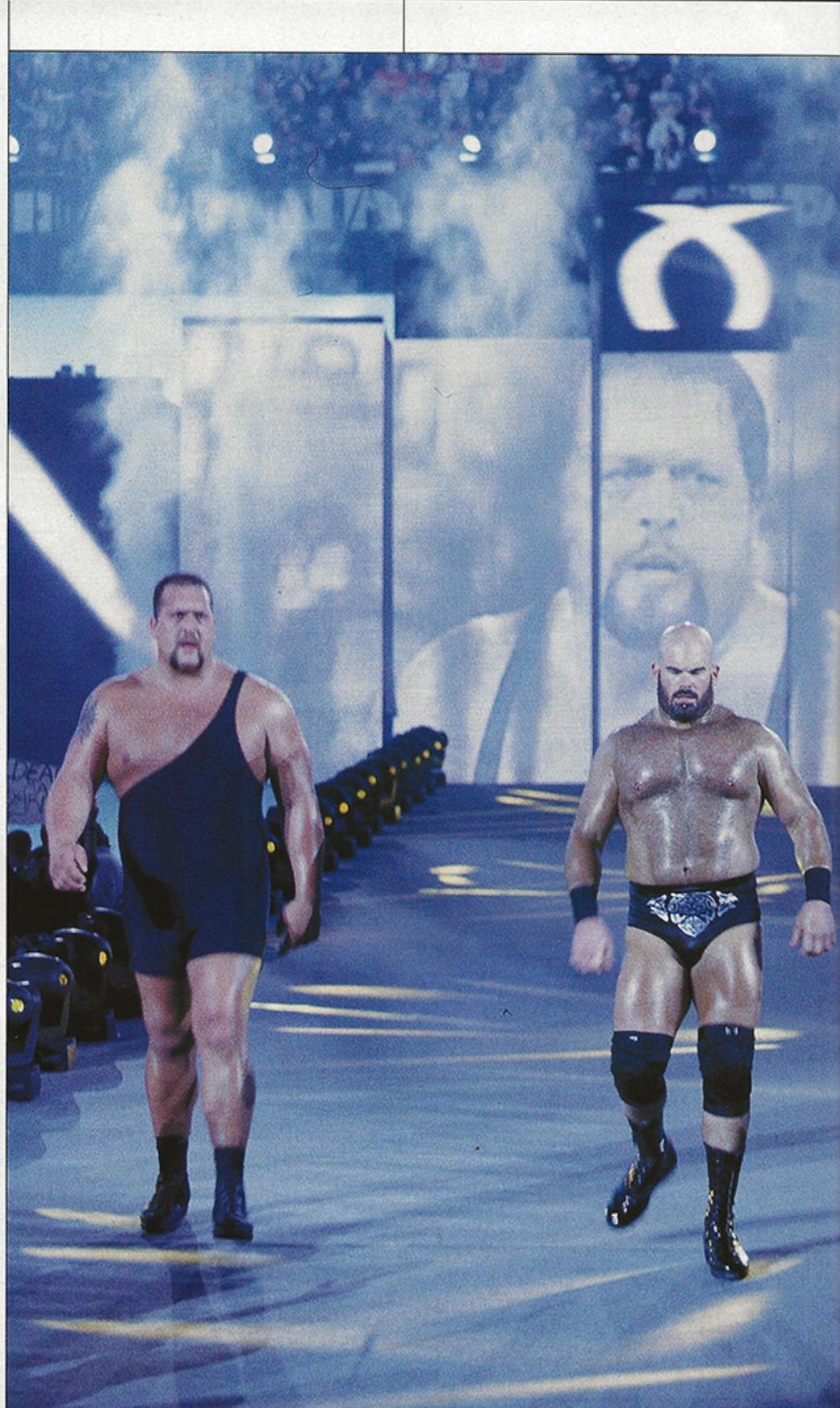
The burly competitor known to WWE followers as A-Train competed in his second *WrestleMania* match, but, of the two appearances, he considers this one his favorite.

"I knew it was something special as soon as I stepped through the curtain," A-Train says. "I've had the opportunity to win the Intercontinental title, and that was pretty neat, but as soon as I stepped through the curtain at *WrestleMania XIX*, that pretty much just erased everything else."

Just minutes before the scheduled tag team match that pitted Undertaker and Nathan Jones against A-Train and Big Show, Nunzio coerced Jones into a trap that allowed his opponents to blindside the Australian monster and leave him unconscious.

As a result, the scheduled four-man melee became a two-on-one affair, but this didn't affect A-Train. If anything, it increased his chances of being victorious on what would be the most spectacular night of his career.

"Safeco Field sounded so cool, and the fans were really, really loud. It felt like the whole place was absolutely shaking," A-Train says. "I was just in awe. After Undertaker was introduced by Limp Bizkit, the fans were really going nuts. So when Big Show and I came out, it was already pretty crazy. Everything almost seemed like



it was happening in slow motion. Just walking down that long ramp and looking around the stadium to see the entire crowd was unbelievable. The infield was packed, and it seemed deafening. I also had my own cheering section in the audience to cheer for me, as my family, friends, and girlfriend all flew out to Seattle."

As soon as A-Train completed his journey to ring-side, he wasted no time to raise the Deadman's ire. In an act of sheer defiance, the hairy sasquatch spat on 'Taker's prized motorcycle, leading to an ugly confrontation between the two giants. He and Big Show double-teamed 'Taker throughout the better part of the contest, but Undertaker defiantly fought to protect his undefeated *WrestleMania* record.

"Undertaker and I really went at each other in there," A-Train says. "Show and I took turns putting him in an abdominal stretch, and that was really straining. 'Taker and I also traded a ton of punches, so I got to beat him down pretty good. Overall, I'd say that the match went really well. It's cool enough competing against Undertaker, but when it's at *WrestleMania*, that's a real thrill."

Despite their obvious advantage, Big Show & A-Train were held off long enough for Jones to recover and run to the ring to aid his weakened ally. And just as Jones kicked Big Show on the outside of the ring, Undertaker hoisted up A-Train and promptly Tombstoned him to collect the three-count. Despite his wholehearted effort, A-Train was upended by the Phenom. But the loss was bittersweet, as A-Train also

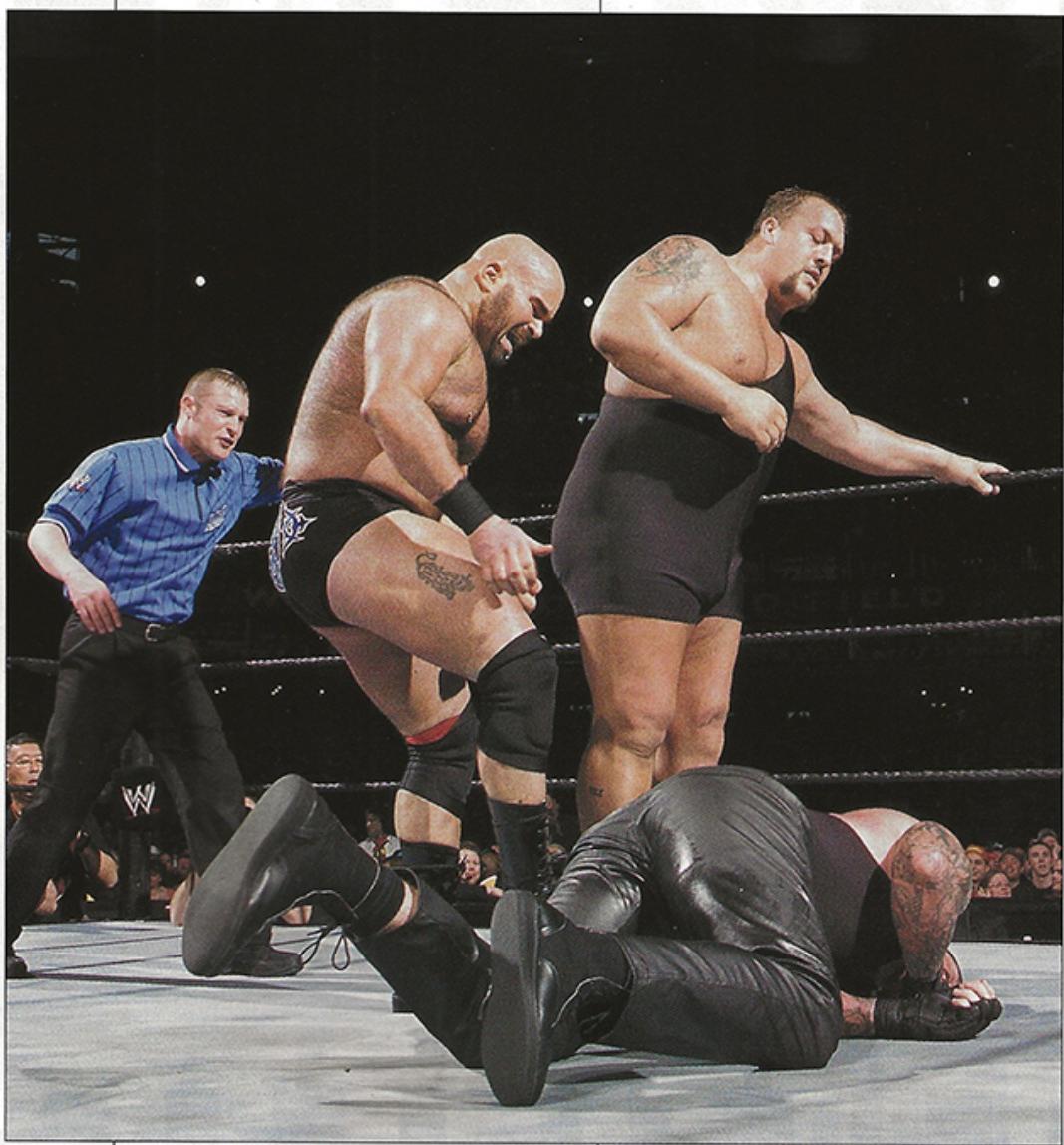
accomplished one of his lifelong goals—competing in a high-profile *WrestleMania* match.

"This was pretty much what I got into wrestling for," A-Train says. "I can remember watching all of the *WrestleManias* when I was growing up, and it was what I had always wanted to do, so, when I finally did it, it was like a dream come true."

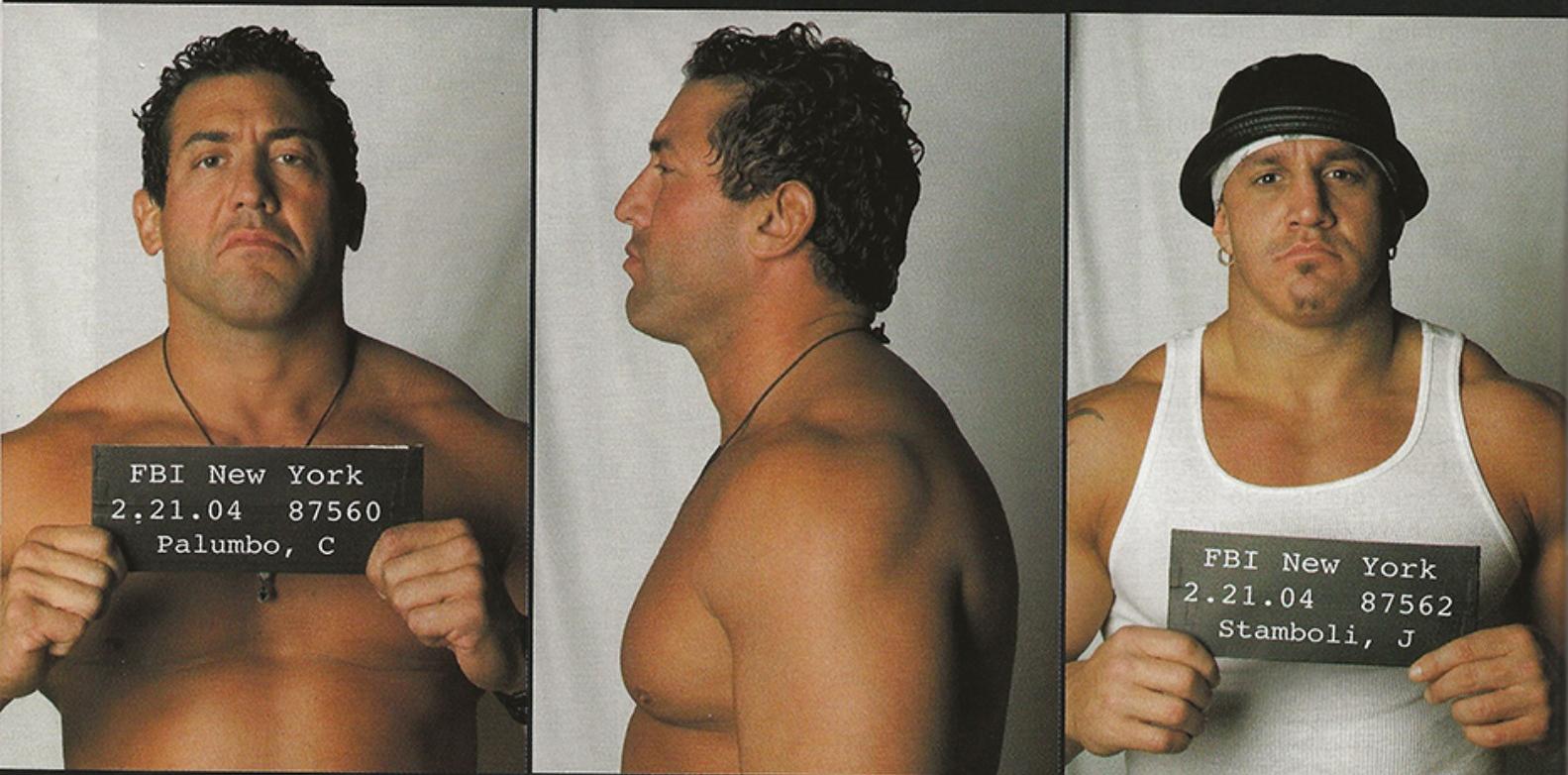
While A-Train doesn't know whether he will have another night as magical and fulfilling as this *WrestleMania* encounter, it is one of his goals, and something that he hopes to accomplish in the near future.

"I sure hope I can produce a bet-

ter one, I mean, there's always room for improvement," A-Train says. "If you're satisfied where you are, then you shouldn't be in the business. You always want to have a better match than the one before. I hope that I will be in many more memorable matches, but, by the same token, if I'm not, then this was a pretty good one. I did something that not a lot of people will ever do, and that's work at *WrestleMania*. There are people who have been with the business a long time and have never had the chance to work a *WrestleMania*. But I was able to do that, so I'm very thankful and very grateful." ■



# FBI IN HO



# FUGITIVE

The word on the street is that WWE is conducting a major investigation concerning the Full-Blooded Italians' alleged numbers racket. According to sources close to the probe, there's even a chance that some fans may be called to the stand to testify.

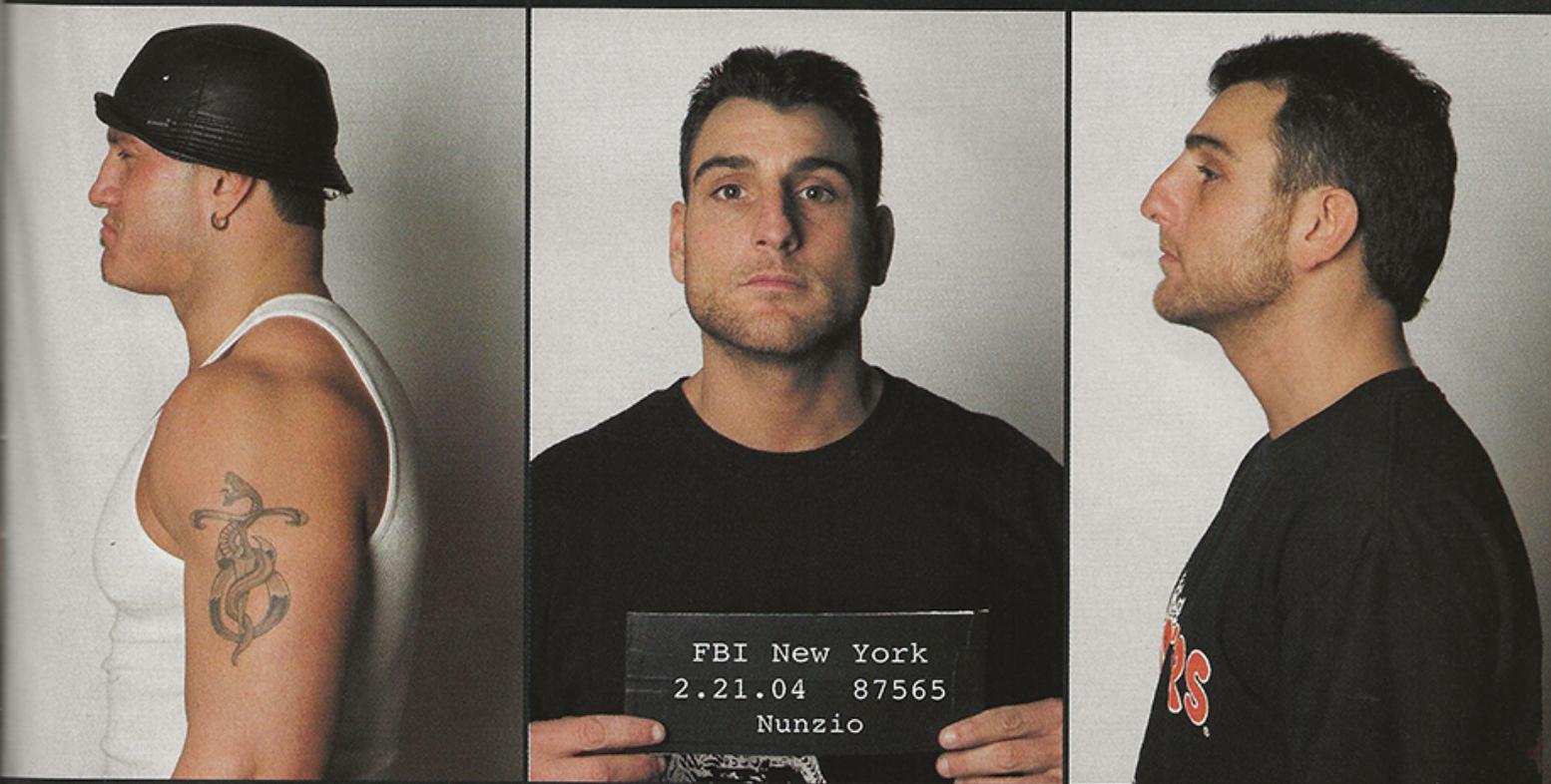
Obviously, anyone who has watched *SmackDown!* over the last few months may think that they've seen the FBI

backstage taking bets on upcoming matches. In fact, if one really sat down and thought about it, one could probably recall at least a half-dozen occasions when the three *goombahs* were surrounded by a group of eager Superstars busily gambling away their hard-earned pay. Surely, these events seemed real at the moment, but they are apparently only figments of the viewers' imaginations,

because according to the FBI, nothing of the sort has ever occurred.

While WWE was visiting Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Connecticut, *SmackDown! Magazine* was fortunate enough to speak to the crew and hear what they had to say for themselves. Very reluctantly, the three wiseguys agreed to shed some light on the mystery surrounding their operations—or lack thereof.

# THE WATER?



# ABOUT IT!

**Nunzio:** Stop following us, you *cafone*! What do you want?

**SmackDown! Magazine:** Just to ask you a few questions.

**Nunzio:** No, we're not answering any of your questions. Wait, wait, wait, hold on a second. Let me look at these questions first... Well, on second thought, there are some things we'd like to get out in the open. So, go ahead.

**SmackDown!:** How much money do you guys make by taking bets on matches?

**Chuck Palumbo:** We don't gamble, that's just a rumor.

**Nunzio:** Chucky, *aspetta*! What rumor? I've never heard nothin' about it!

**Johnny Stamboli:** Yeah, we only gamble when we go to the casinos.

**Nunzio:** Of course—it would be illegal if

we did it anywhere else.

**Palumbo:** Yeah, that's right. Don't you know that gambling is illegal?

**SmackDown!:** Well, why are you guys always collecting money from the other *SmackDown!* Superstars?

**Nunzio:** We were collecting money to give away to some of our favorite charities. What do you think we were doing? [Smirks] Chuck Palumbo, Johnny



Stamboli and Nunzio are honest, decent, hard-working and law-abiding citizens. Whatever else you've been hearing is just fabricated propaganda.

**SmackDown!**: Has anyone in WWE actually looked into this gambling rumor?

**Nunzio**: No. Why would they do that? I'm sure that if someone was actually gambling on matches, WWE would do something about it.

**Palumbo**: Yeah, that's not something that would be tolerated by any WWE officials.

**Stamboli**: That would be an outrage!

**Nunzio**: And, to tell you the truth, if the FBI ever caught anybody gambling, we'd be sure to let the authorities know about it.

**SmackDown!**: To your knowledge, are there any people on *SmackDown!* that bet on matches?

**Nunzio**: I think that there are a few gamblers on the show. Rey Mysterio may be one. I mean, he looks like a gambler to me.

**Palumbo**: I'd say Bill DeMott.

**Stamboli**: I've heard that Billy Kidman is a big-time gambler.

**Nunzio**: Yeah, Kidman's definitely a gambler. I've heard the same thing.

**SmackDown!**: Are any referees and ring announcers known to be gambling fiends?

**Stamboli**: I sure hope not.

**Palumbo**: Wait, that sounds like a possibility. Hey, that could be one of the reasons why we've lost some of our matches!

**SmackDown!**: Similar to what happened to Pete Rose in baseball, WWE Superstars would likely get suspended indefinitely if they were caught gambling on their own matches. Do you think that any WWE Superstar would go as far as to take a dive if it meant a decent payoff?

**Nunzio**: Kidman, I think that Kidman would.

**Palumbo**: I wouldn't put it past anybody, to tell you the truth. You never know—money does crazy things to people.

**SmackDown!**: Speaking of Pete Rose,

what do you guys think about his gambling woes?

**Palumbo**: That's a disgrace what he did. We would never encourage such a thing.

**Nunzio**: I think it's horrible. I mean, betting on your own team. We would never do that.

**Palumbo**: Nor would we want to be associated with people like that.

**SmackDown!**: So you probably don't think he should be reinstated by Major League Baseball.

**Stamboli**: Absolutely not.

**Palumbo**: Why are you gonna lie for 14 years and then come out in the open? I mean anybody who would openly lie about gambling is a real *finoak*.

**Nunzio**: Nah, he don't deserve to be reinstated. I don't even think he was that good.

**SmackDown!**: Here's a hypothetical question. If you guys were to gamble, who would you put your money on?

**Nunzio**: Johnny, you have any ideas?

**Stamboli**: I'd put my money on Chucky Knuckles over there.

**Nunzio**: I'd put my money on Johnny Stamboli.

**Palumbo**: Well, I'd put money on the FBI. And, if you were smart, you'd do the same.

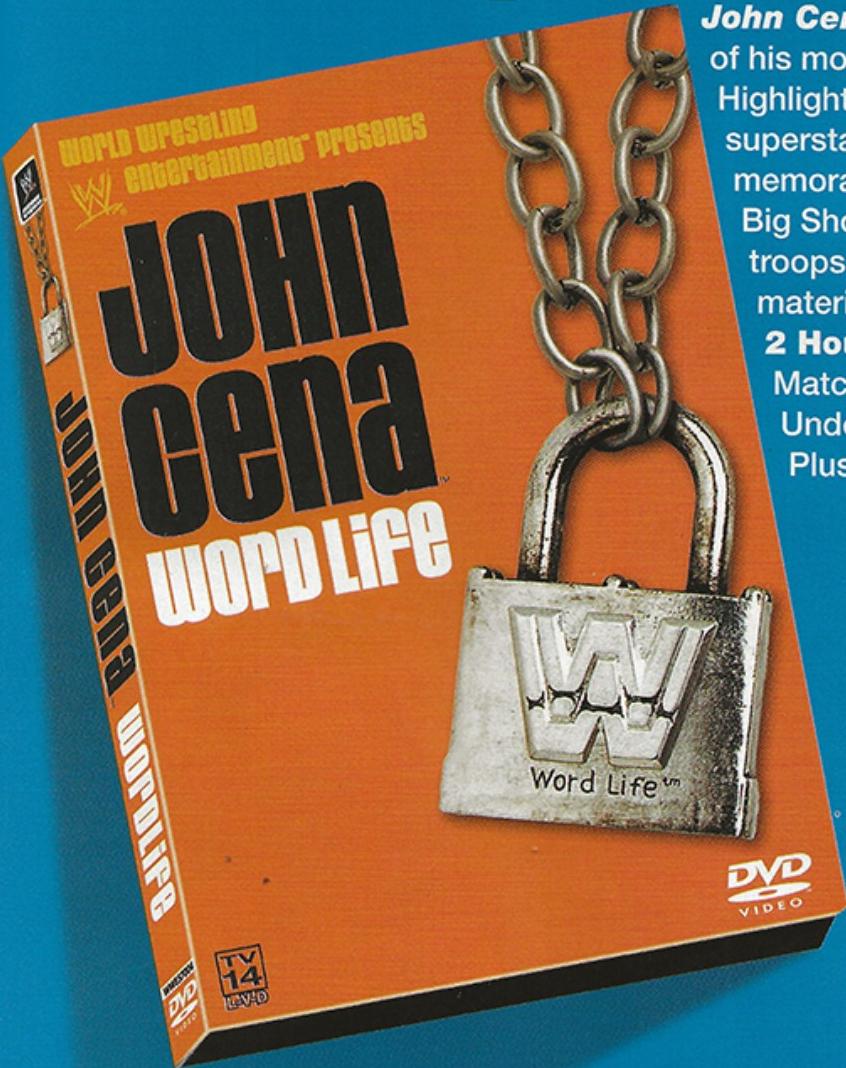
**Nunzio**: Now get out of here before we put odds on which body part of yours we're gonna break first.

It's quite obvious that the FBI aren't confessing to anything, and their lack of patience makes them a very dangerous faction to interview or accuse of such serious allegations. One Superstar who recently tangled with the Full-Blooded Italians even went on record to say that if the fans are smart, they'll keep their mouths shut, because if there's anything the FBI doesn't like, it's a squealer. And if someone does muster up the courage to step forward and testify against the *goombahs*, they could very well be in store for a very special surprise—a mysterious visitor at the doorstep with a special knack for helping people *fughettaboutit!* ■



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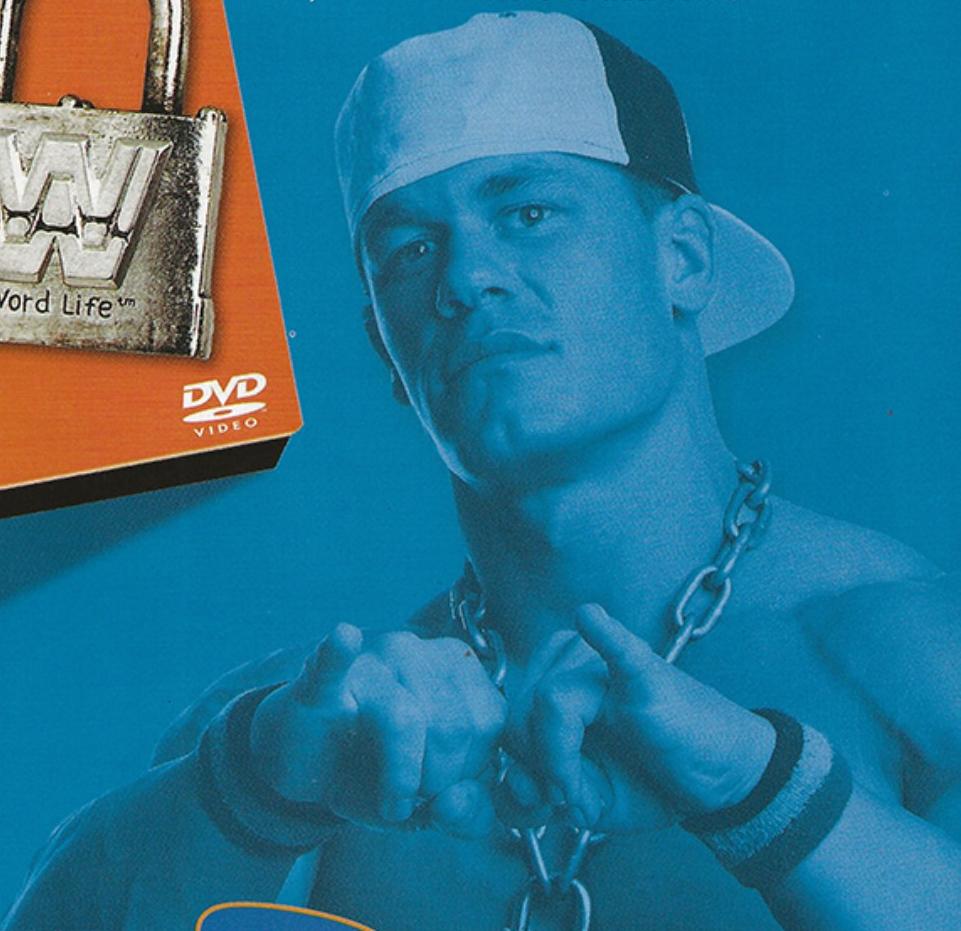
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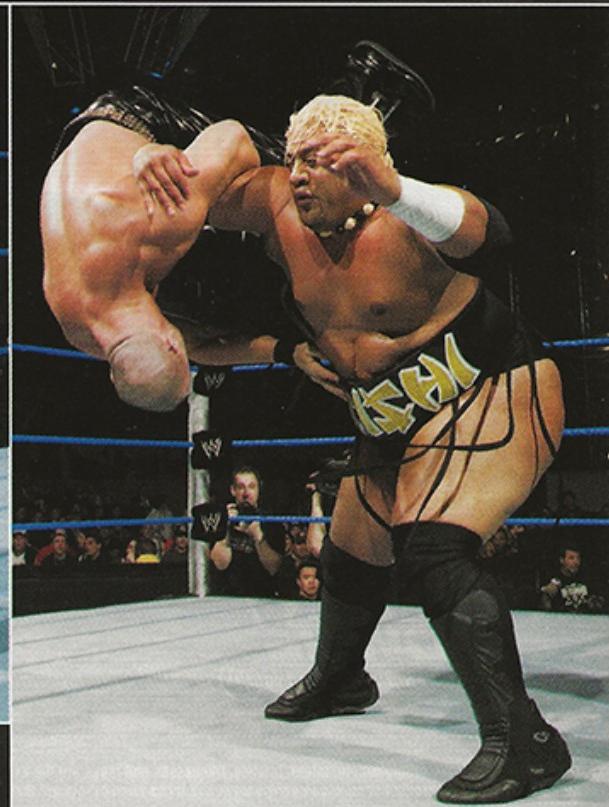
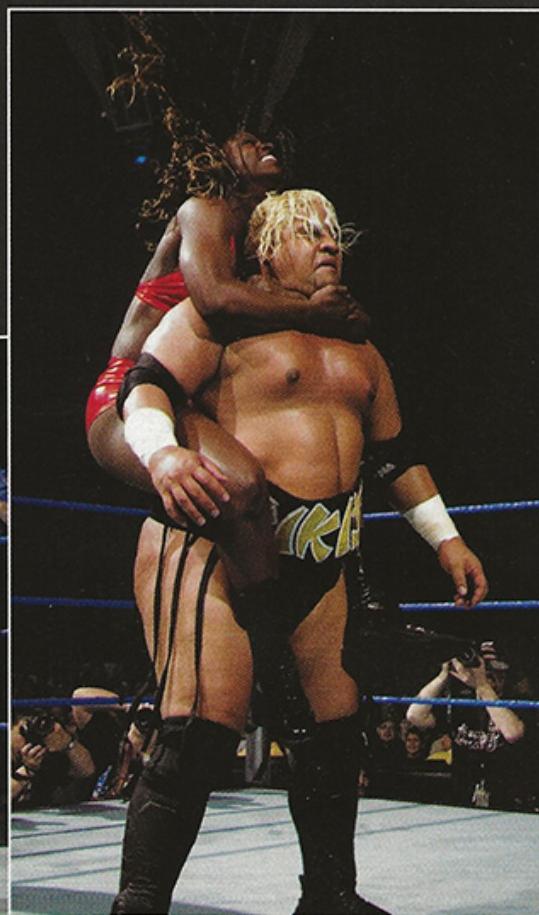
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# NO WAY OUT

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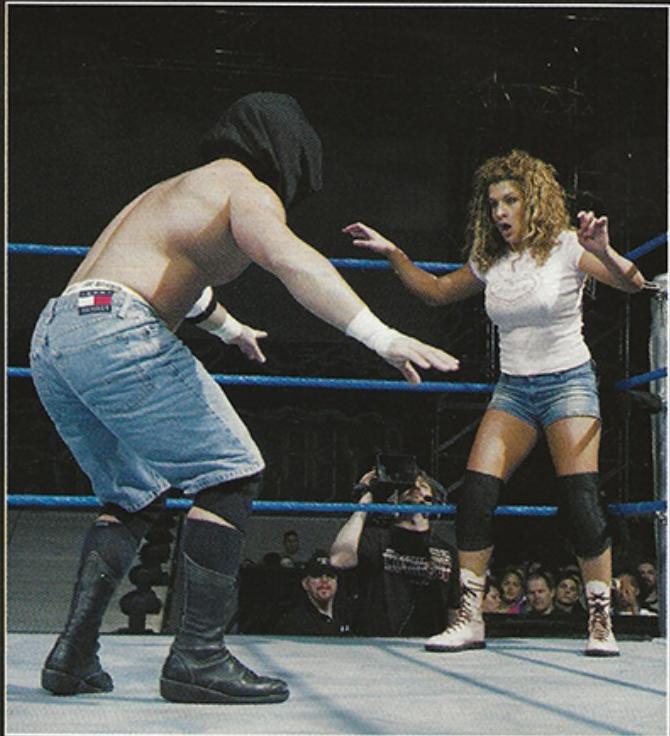
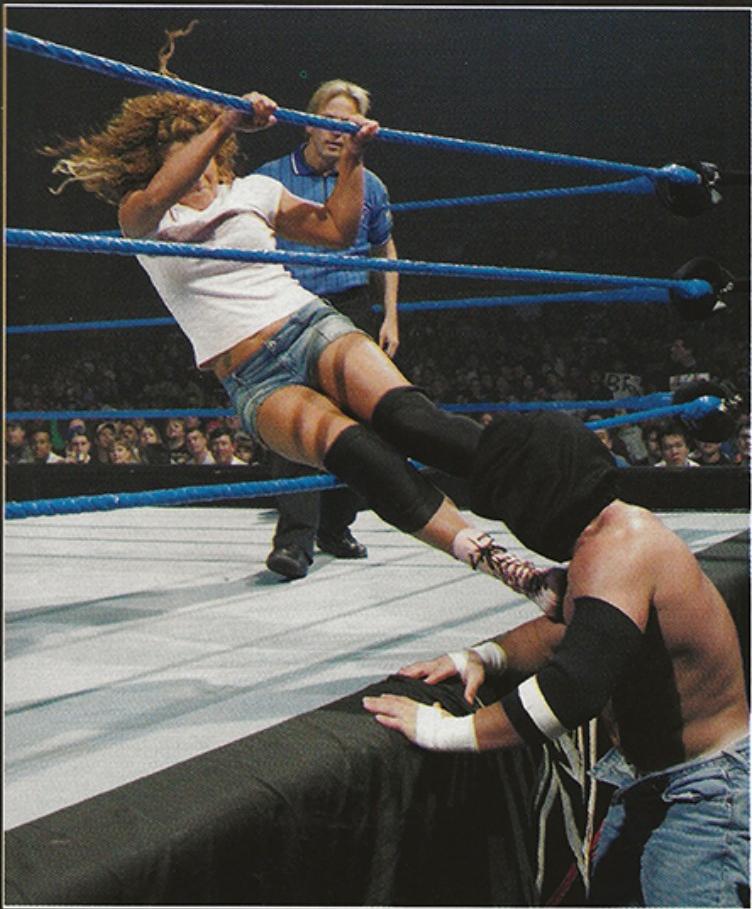
The Basham Brothers probably thought that enlisting their valet Shaniqua to help them in a handicap match against Tag Team Champions Rikishi and Scotty 2 Hotty was a good idea. But in the end, it blew up in their faces. Make no mistake, the former champs made an impressive showing against Rikishi and Scotty as they attempted to win back the gold. Nevertheless, it was Shaniqua who proved to be the weak link, taking a Samoan drop and a Banzai splash from Rikishi to go down for the count.



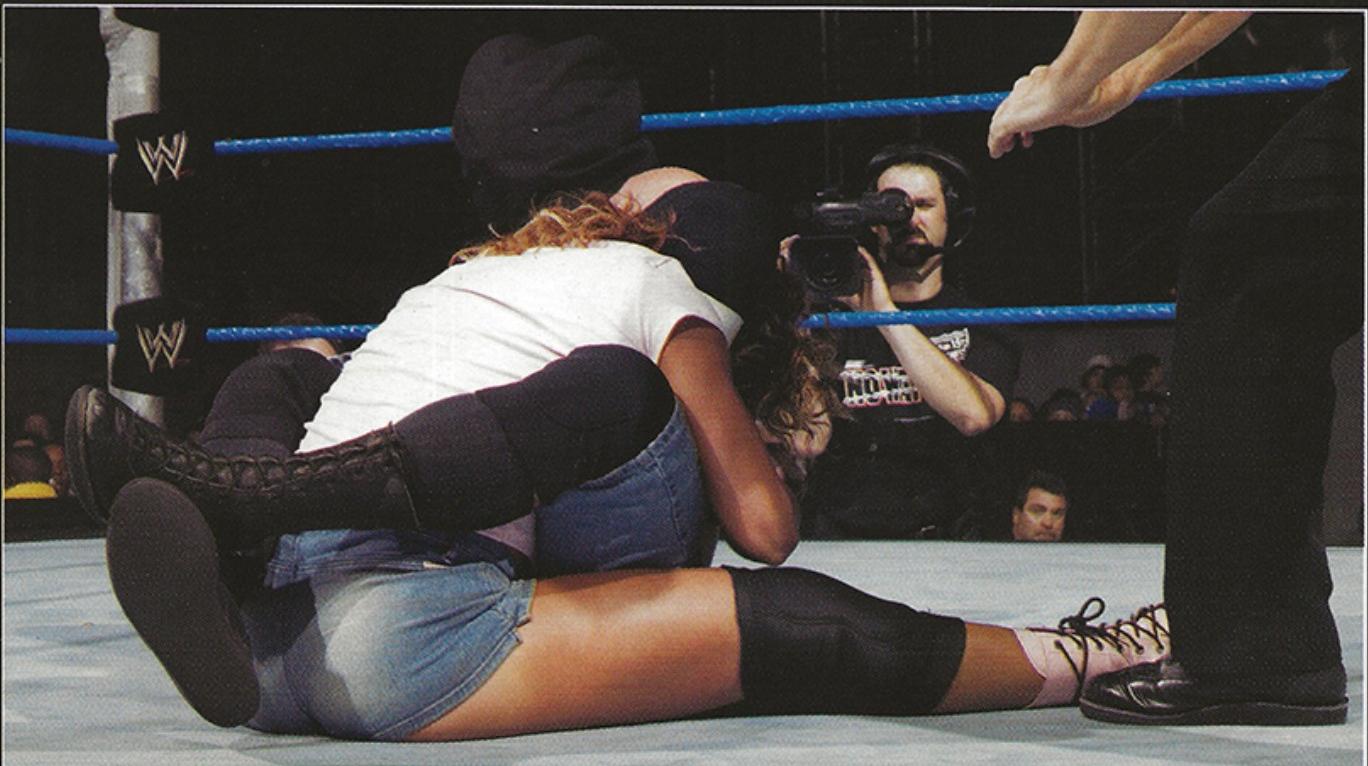
**WWE Tag Titles Handicap Match**  
**Rikishi and Scotty 2 Hotty**  
**def. The Basham Brothers**  
**and Shaniqua**

Boyfriend vs. Girlfriend  
Blindfold Match

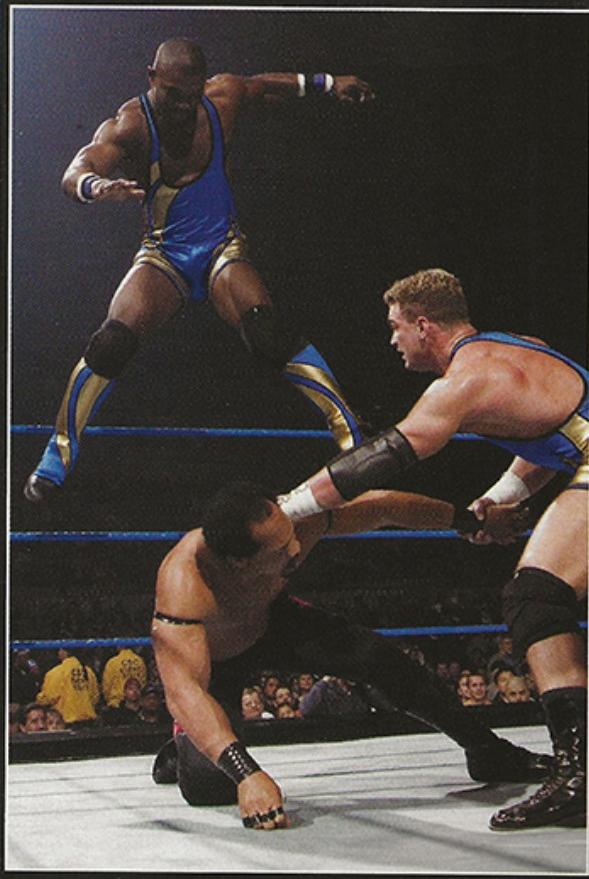
Jamie Noble def. Nidia



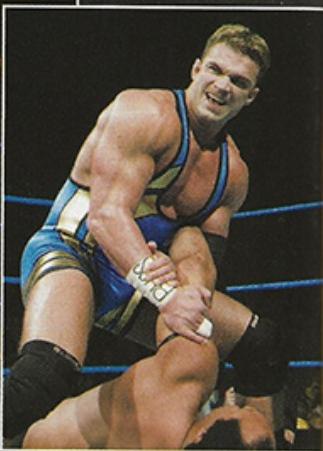
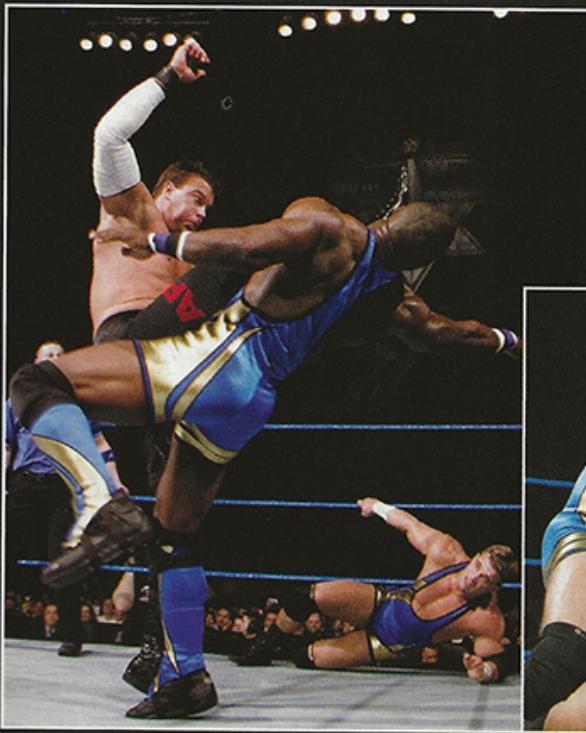
In another of the night's bad ideas, Nidia paid the price for agreeing to a match against her former boyfriend, Jamie Noble. Even though it was a Blindfold Match, in which Noble had to compete under a hood and couldn't see his opponent, his underhanded tactics managed to win the day. Taking advantage of distracted referee Charles Robinson, Noble momentarily lifted up his blindfold, which allowed him to score a devastating bodyslam from the top rope on Nidia. He followed this with a merciless chokehold that quickly brought the match to an end.



## The World's Greatest Tag Team def. The APA



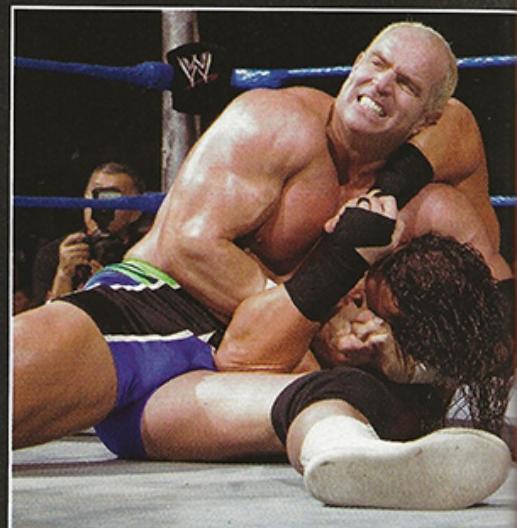
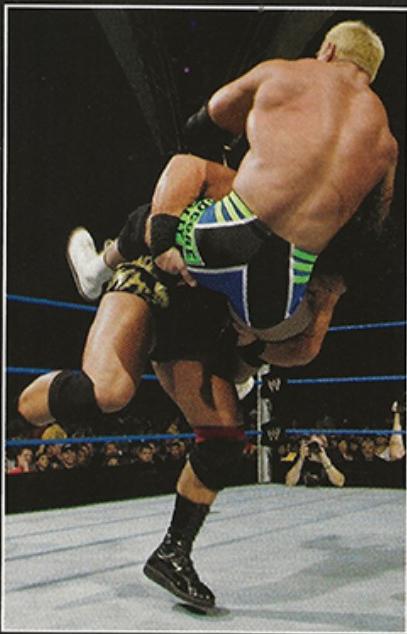
Once upon a time, the APA was an unstoppable force in WWE, and ruled the roost along with the likes of the Dudleyz, the Hardyz and Edge & Christian. But it seems as if the World's Greatest Tag Team may just have their number, as *No Way Out* served as something of a passing of the torch for Charlie Haas & Shelton Benjamin. Bradshaw, one-half of the APA, was already coming into the match nursing a shoulder injury suffered at the hands of Benjamin, and this proved the team's ultimate undoing. In the end, Benjamin hit a sidekick on Bradshaw for the pin.



## Hardcore Holly def. Rhyno

Fresh off his disappointing loss to Brock Lesnar in the WWE Championship match at the *Royal Rumble*, Hardcore Holly was not in a very agreeable mood, and he let Rhyno know it in a hurry. The two engaged in a brutal brawl, both inside the ring and

out. When Rhyno managed to gore Holly, the savvy veteran rolled out of the ring to avoid being pinned. He was then able to hit his trademark Alabama Slam and log a successful pinfall against the Man-Beast. Ten years into his WWE career, Hardcore Holly continues to be a force to be reckoned with as he begins his road back into title contention.



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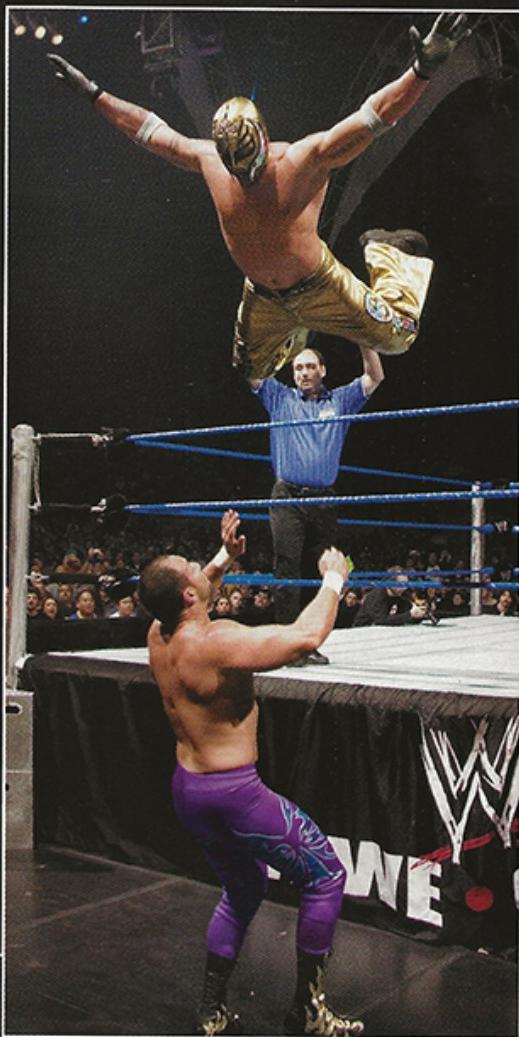
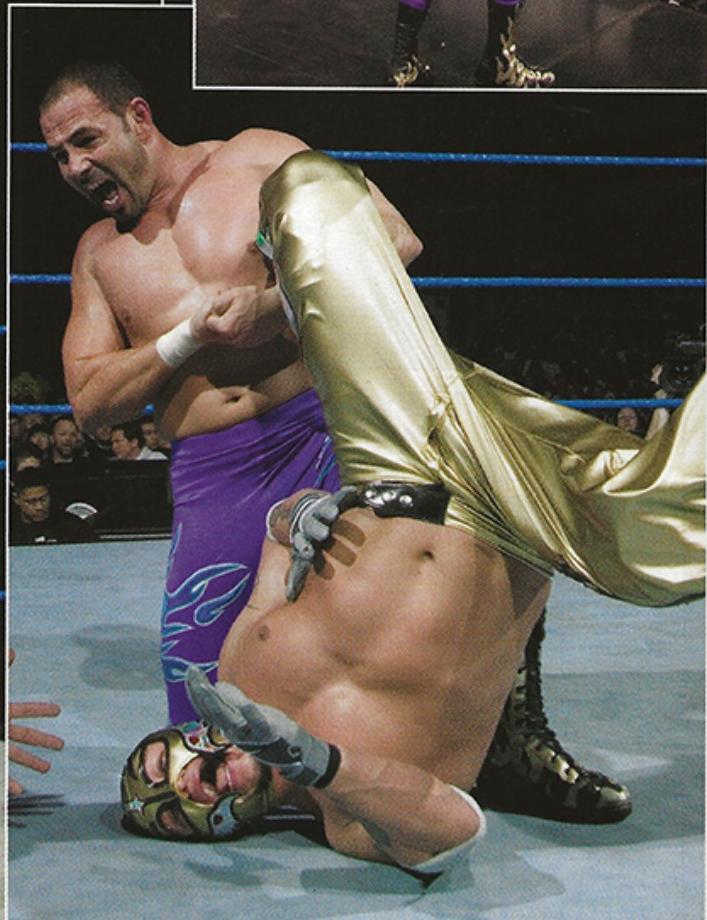
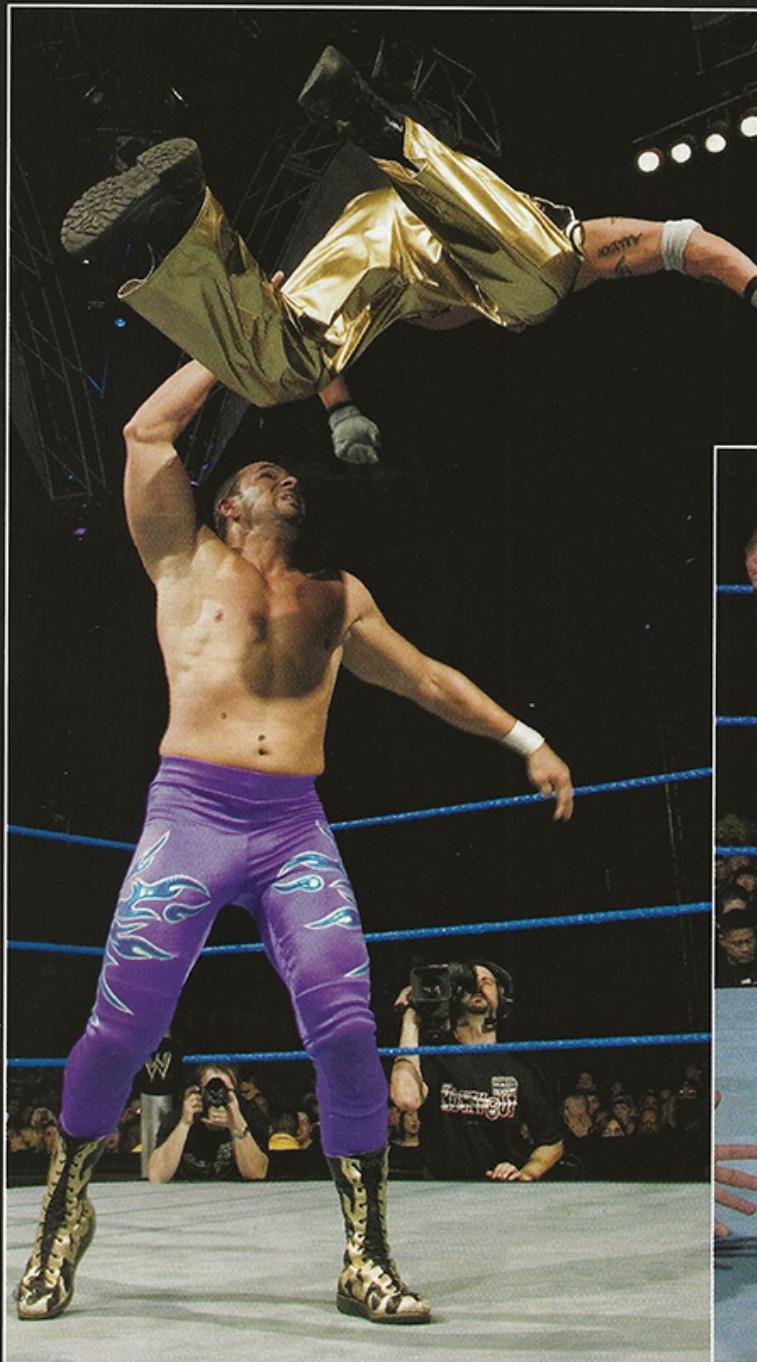
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Cruiserweight Championship Match

**Chavo Guerrero with Chavo Guerrero Sr.**  
**def. Rey Mysterio with Jorge Paez**

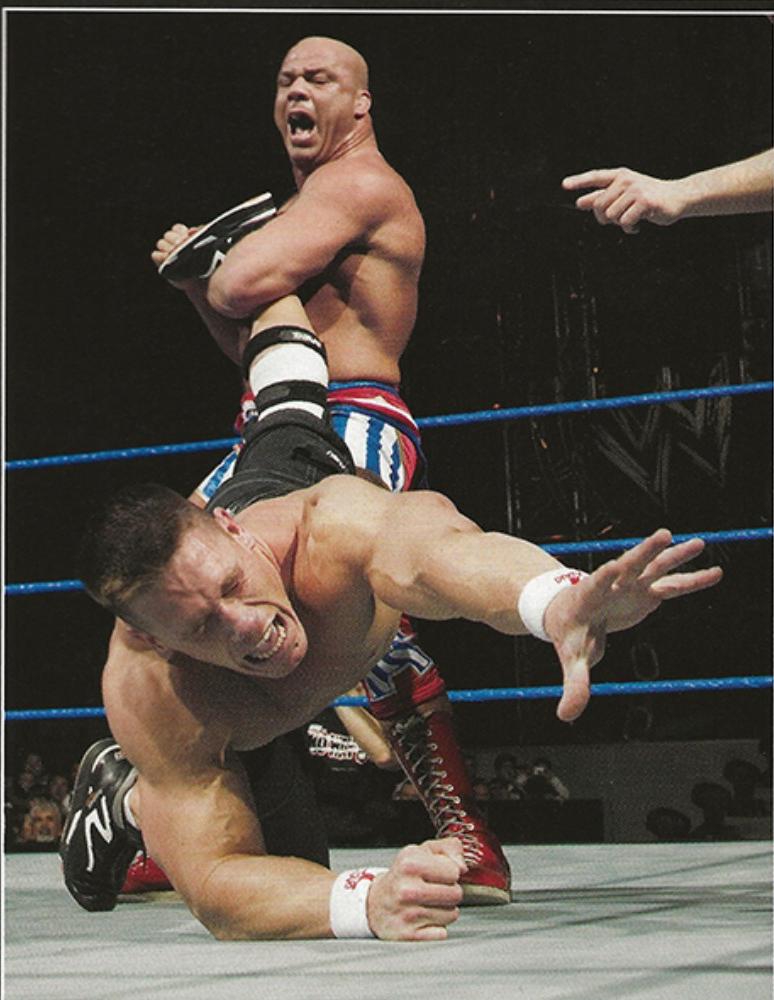
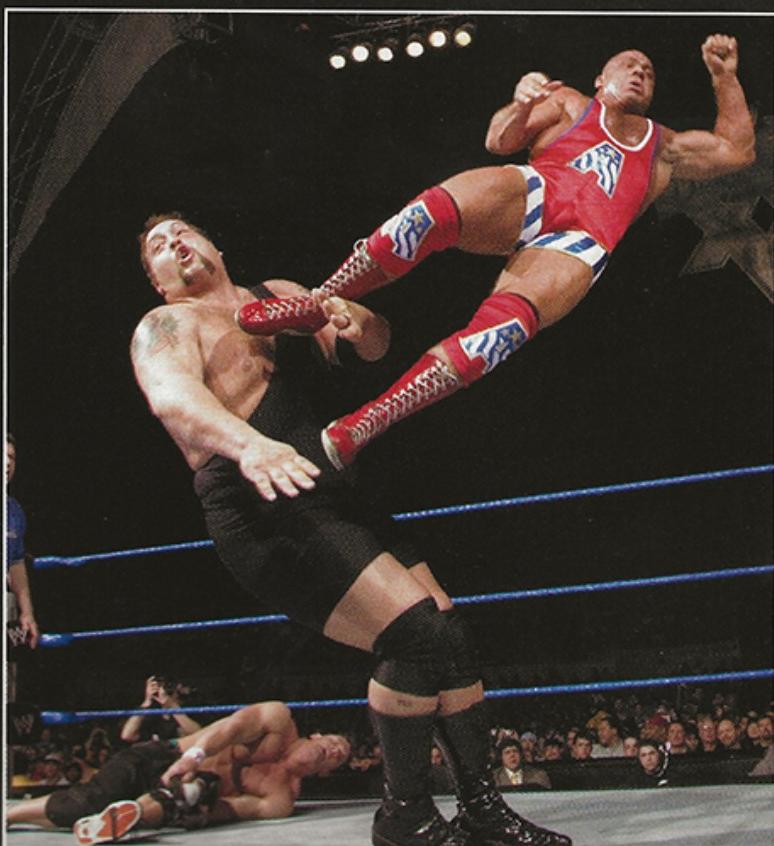
In the finest technical encounter of the evening, Chavo took Rey to the limit, and eventually divested him of his coveted Cruiserweight gold. But it wasn't before the two engaged in a veritable wrestling clinic, with high-flying maneuvers being the order of the day. When Chavo Sr. tried to interfere, boxing spitfire Jorge Paez helped maintain order with his fists. Of course, that got him booted from ringside, which left Rey all alone. Once Chavo Sr. came to, it was only a matter of time before he returned to his old tricks. When Mysterio went to the top rope, Chavo Sr. pushed him off, right into a pinning predicament courtesy of Chavo Jr., who wrapped him up to win the gold.



## No. 1 Contender Triple-Threat Match

### Kurt Angle def. John Cena and Big Show

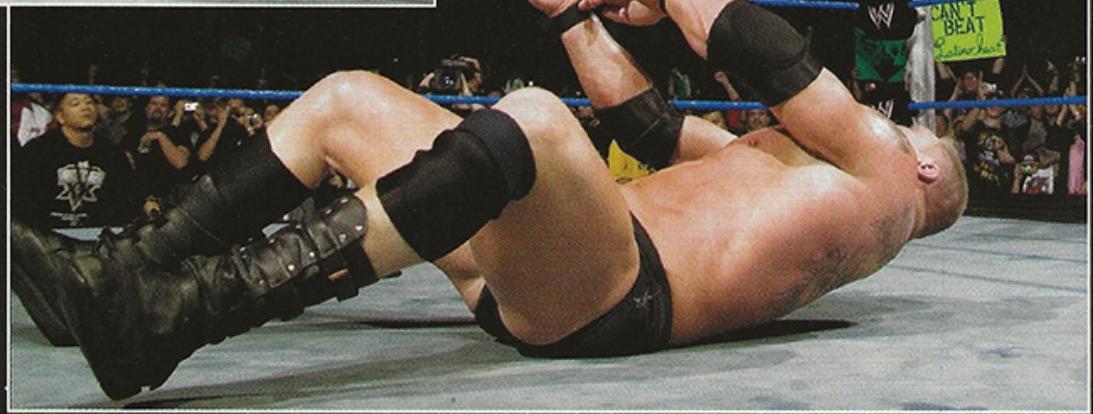
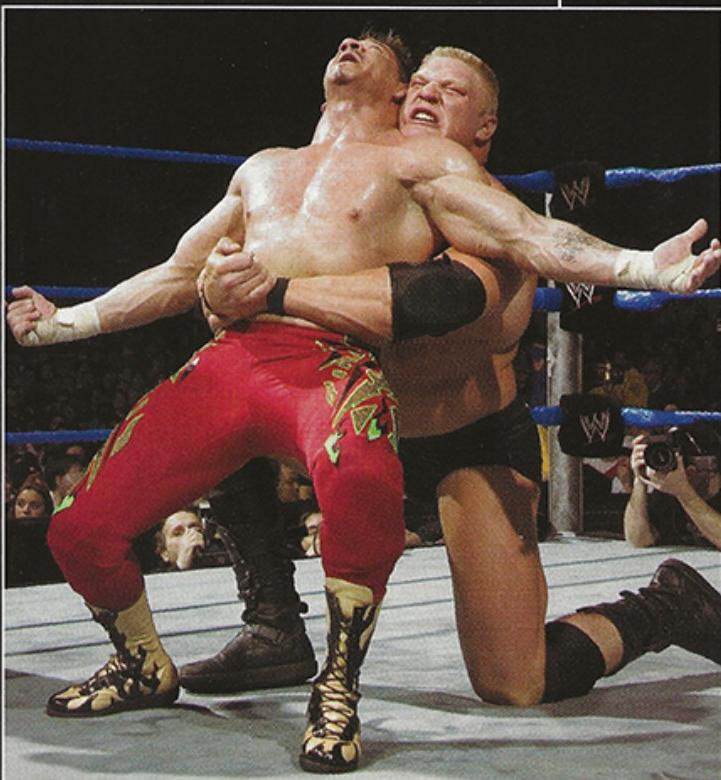
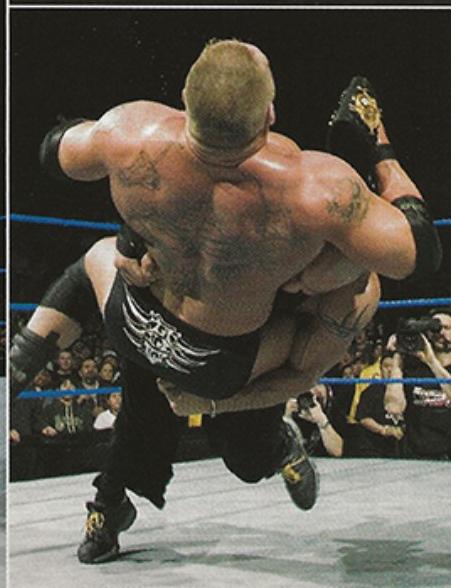
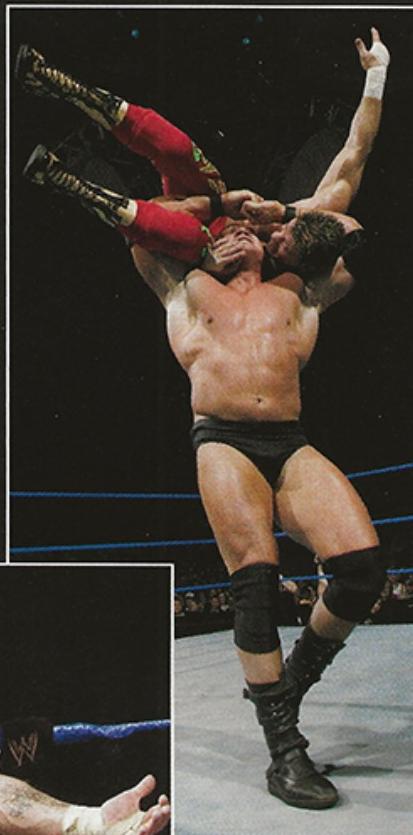
For the first time since 1990, the No. 1 contender to the WWE Championship at *WrestleMania* was not decided by who won the *Royal Rumble*. Therefore, in order to decide who would get the title shot at Madison Square Garden, *SmackDown!* General Manager Paul Heyman was forced to make this Triple-Threat Match between the top three contenders. Cena, the crowd favorite, was hampered by a knee injury that was further aggravated by Big Show throughout the match. Once Angle launched Show over the top rope, Cena was ripe for the Ankle Lock, giving Angle his ticket to 'Mania.

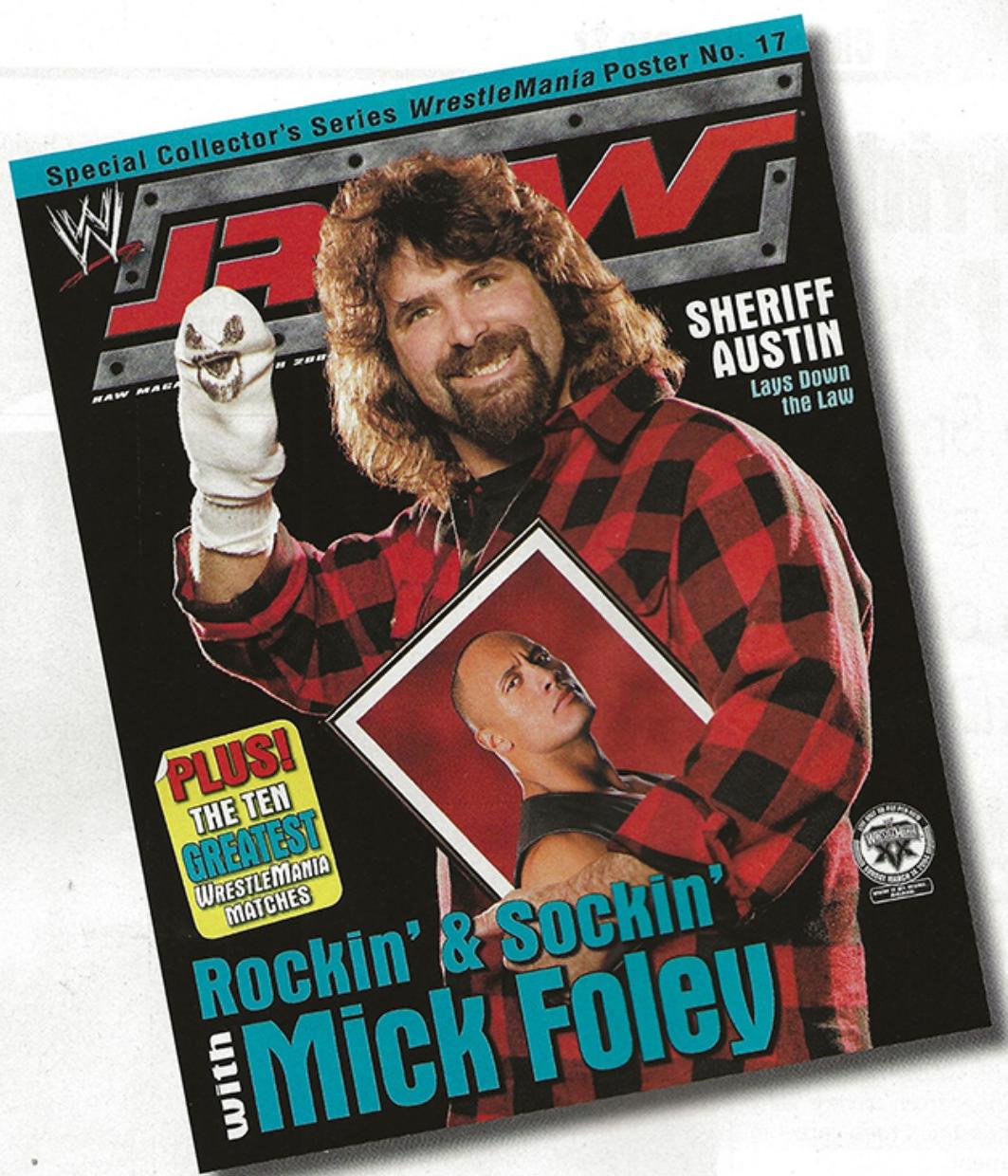


## **WWE Championship Match** **Eddie Guerrero def.** **Brock Lesnar**

For anyone who has lost faith that you truly can achieve whatever you put your mind to, watching this match was all you needed to get that faith back. Proving all the critics wrong, Eddie Guerrero conquered his personal demons and wrested the WWE Championship away from the much larger and more powerful Brock Lesnar. The 6-foot-4, 295-pound wrecking ball became frustrated when his punishing wear-down holds failed to finish Latino Heat, and he began taunting the challenger by shouting, "Just die, Eddie!" He was so distracted that he was caught totally off-guard by a spear from the interfering Goldberg. Guerrero then connected with a DDT and Frog Splash that sealed Lesnar's fate and put Guerrero's name in the history books.

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# The Pride of El Paso

## Chavo Sr. Makes a Splash on SmackDown!

When Chavo Guerrero Sr. showed up unexpectedly on *SmackDown!* to defend his son, some WWE fans may not have been familiar with the elder Guerrero. But the man who many thought was only Eddie Guerrero's older brother is actually an international Superstar and a *lucha libre* legend.

The oldest son of Gory Guerrero, Chavo Sr. was a wrestling fan from birth, and he knew from a very early age that he was destined for a career in sports-entertainment.

"What can I say? I grew up in a wrestling family," he says. "My father was a professional wrestler. I was surrounded by it and knew all about wrestling from when I was first able to walk. I wrestled in high school and got into college on a wrestling scholarship. I even represented Mexico in the 1968 Olympics. Then after college, I coached wrestling for three years before turning pro in '72."

During the early '70s, Chavo Sr. further honed his skills and continued to train under his father's tutelage. He even began participating in overseas tours.

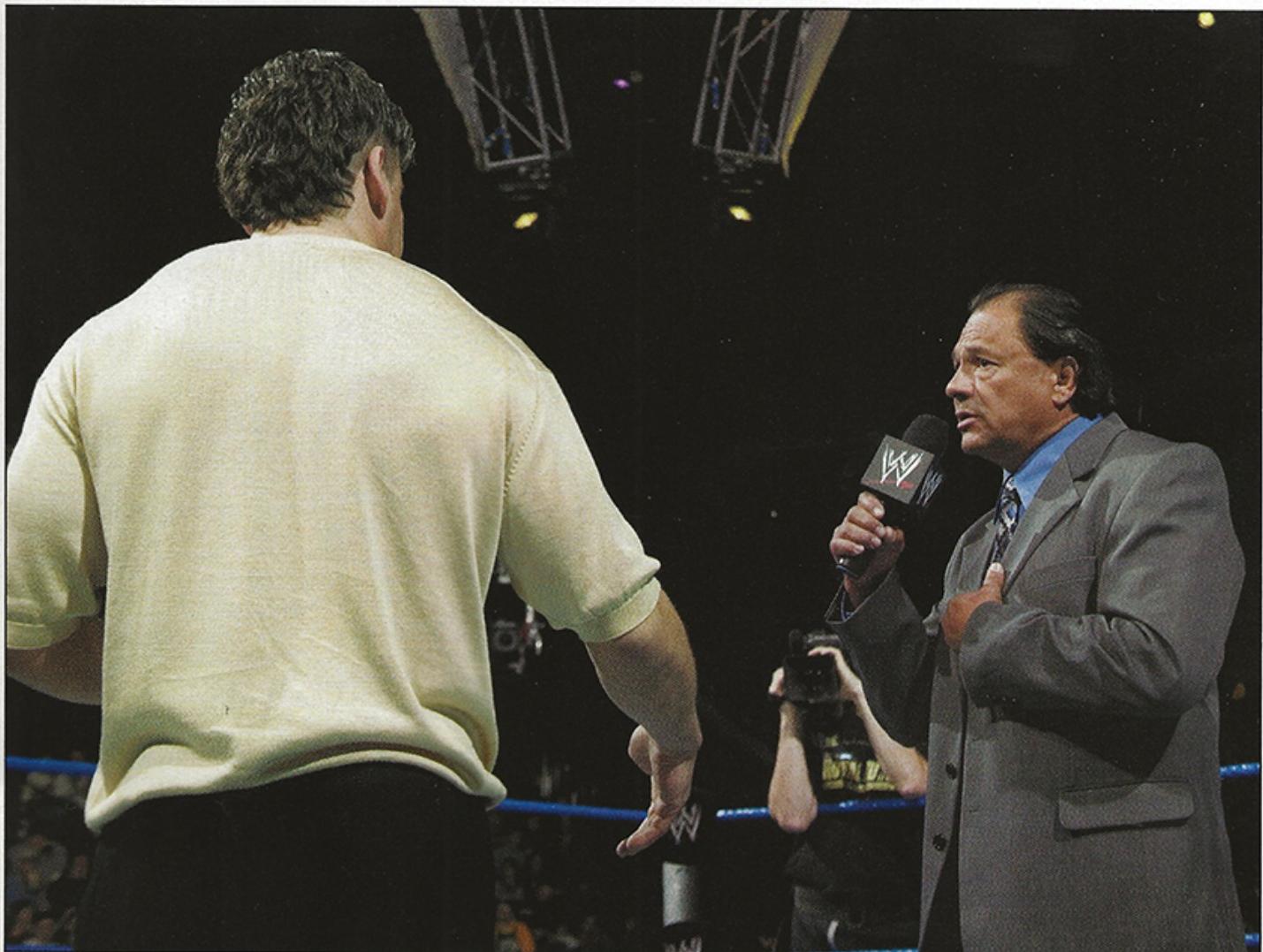
"I began working in Japan a lot," he says. "In fact, I worked with Arn Anderson when I went on my very first Japanese tour, and I also worked in a lot of the same shows as Ric Flair, but, unfor-

tunately, I never got to compete against him. Japan really became my forte, and I've been to the country 56 times. I'm regarded as a legend out there."

In 1975, Chavo Sr. began working for promoter Mike LeBelle in the National Wrestling Alliance's Los Angeles territory, and competed in L.A.'s famous Olympic Auditorium, where he took

part in legendary battles for the NWA Americas Heavyweight title. Throughout the mid-to-late '70s, he visited almost all of the other major territories, and he even captured the NWA Americas Tag Team title with his father Gory. As a singles competitor, Chavo was involved in a long-running rivalry with a young "Rowdy" Roddy Piper, and in 1977, the





two exchanged the NWA World Junior Heavyweight title back and forth.

"I traveled to cities like New York, Chicago and pretty much everywhere in the U.S.," Chavo Sr. says. "I was the NWA champion five times in the Light Heavyweight/ International Junior Heavyweight divisions, and I wrestled for pretty much every major promotion, including WWE. One of my more memorable WWE matches was in 1980 against Tatsumi Fujinami for the Junior Heavyweight title at Shea Stadium. I also competed for all of the major championships against legendary performers like Dory Funk Jr., Terry Funk, Nick Bockwinkel, Superstar Billy Graham, Billy Robinson and Harley Race. And that's something I'm really

### Chavo confronts his younger brother Eddie on *SmackDown!* The sons of Mexican legend Gory Guerrero grew up around the ring.

very proud of."

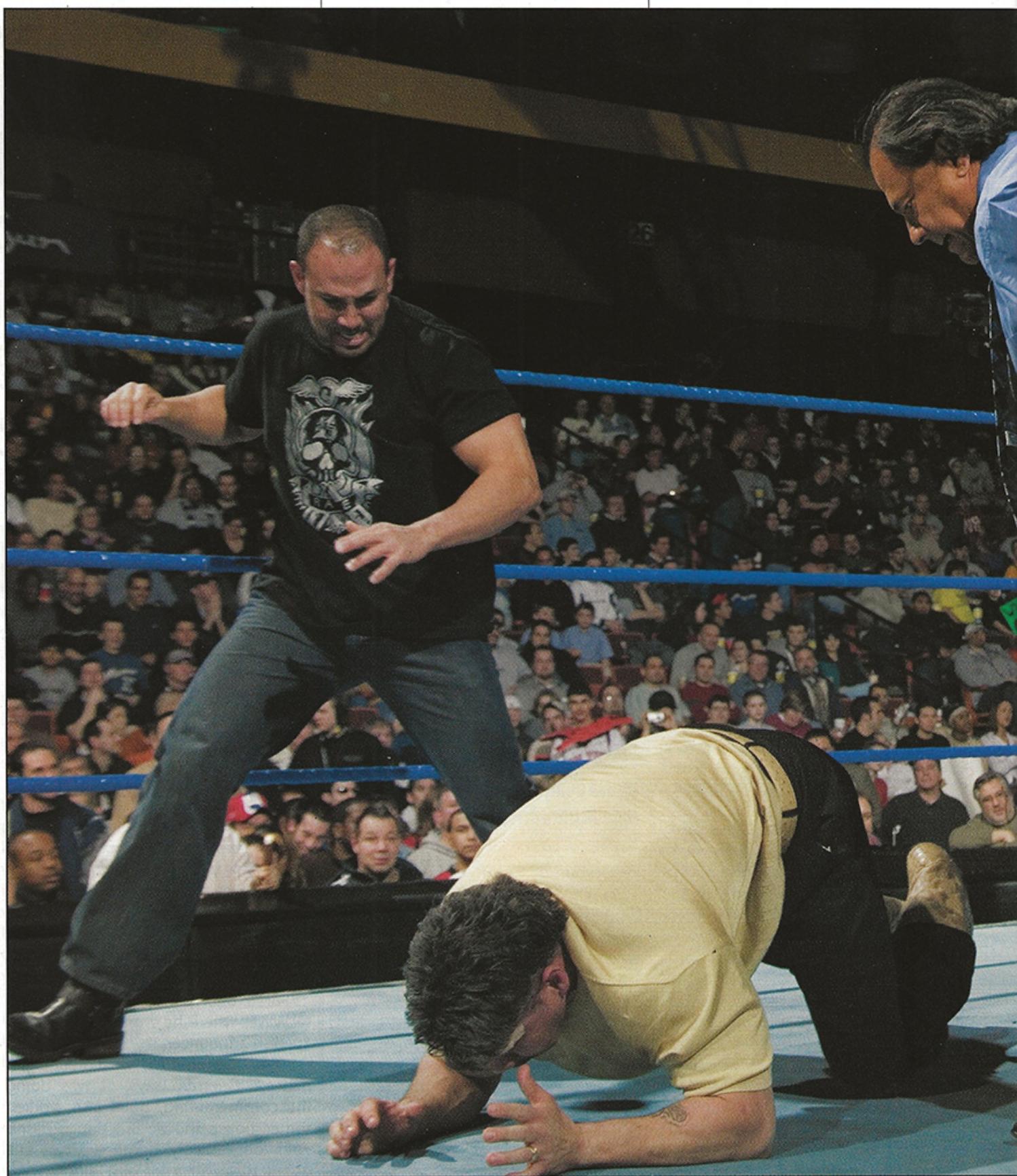
In the '80s, Chavo returned to his home state of Texas and began working for Southwest Championship Wrestling, where he won the Southwest Junior Heavyweight and World Tag Team titles.

"While working for SCW, I wrestled a lot of tough guys, like Gino Hernandez, Dick Slater and Tully Blanchard, but one of my fondest memories of my time down there was the Royal Order of the Chicken," he says. "This was a club we had in San Antonio around 1981/1982, with myself, Dr. Tom Prichard, Manny Fernandez, Scott Casey and Tiger

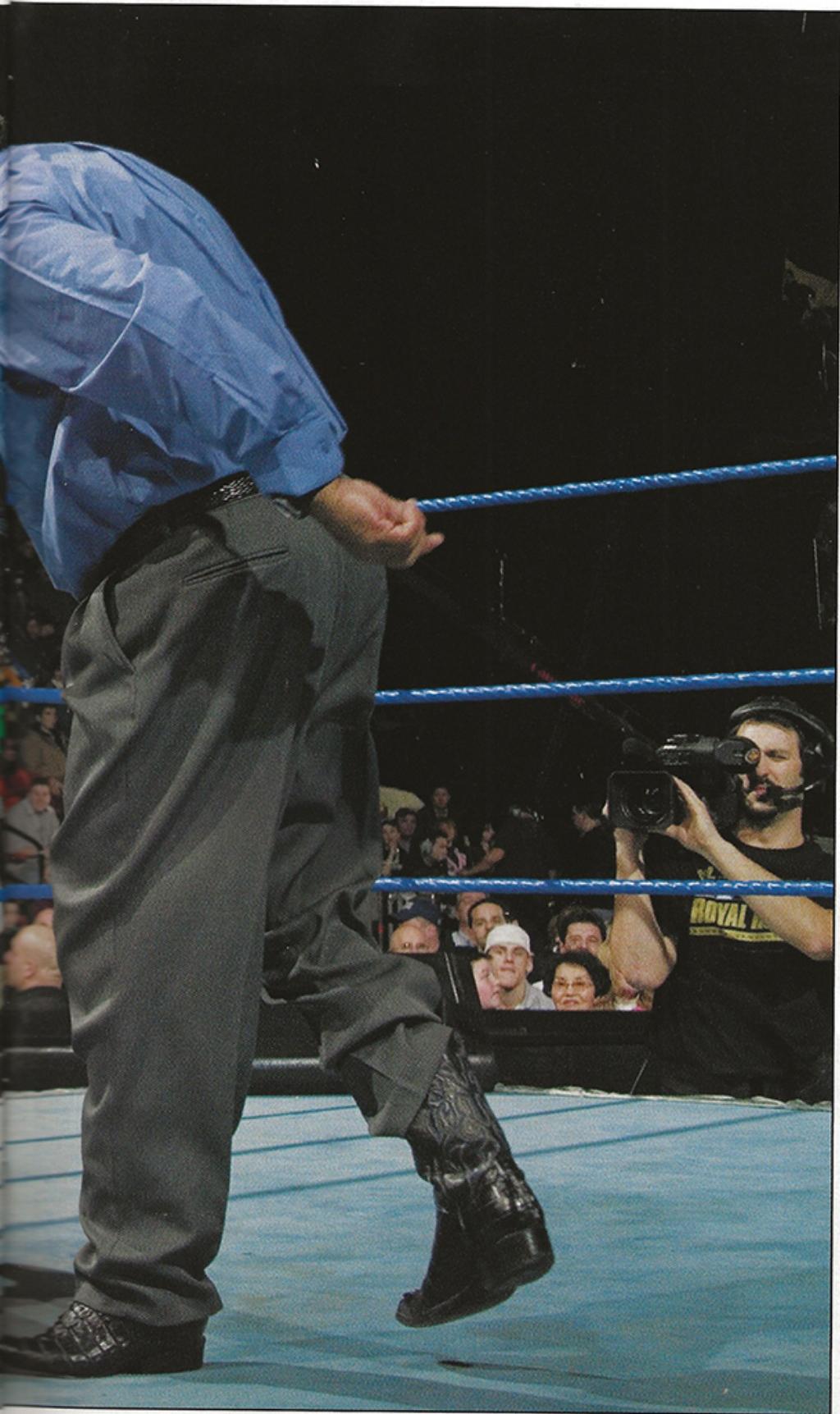
Conway Jr. We wrestled together, traveled together, and pretty much did everything together, and when we were in the locker room, we'd make chicken noises and goof around. It was basically a little clique."

For a brief period, Chavo returned to WWE, where he worked mainly as a Spanish announcer.

"Working for WWE was a great experience," Guerrero says. "I was doing the commentating, but I also worked some house shows. But things didn't work out, mainly because I was still going to Japan a lot and didn't want



**Chavo Jr. learned a great deal about the sport from his father. Here, they administer a beatdown to Eddie.**



to commit to anything long-term. I'm a certified teacher, so I would go off and on between wrestling and teaching. I taught history and Spanish, and I coached wrestling, which is something I still really love doing."

These days, the semi-retired Mexican icon owns and operates the Chavo Guerrero Professional Wrestling Training School in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he passes on his 30-plus years of experience to the next generation of Superstars.

"We took over an old theater, and we put on shows there every week," Guerrero says. "I still try to keep myself in pretty good condition, and although I don't wrestle full-time, I am always ready in case I get the call."

In January, Chavo Sr. returned to WWE in an attempt to bring peace to the Guerrero family. But while his brother Eddie had his back turned, Chavo Sr. blindsided him and helped his son dismantle their fallen relative.

"I've wrestled my family members, like my son and brothers, but we were usually just playing around," Chavo Sr. says. "It's never gotten as serious as it did with Eddie and Chavito. Those two started it, and I had to step in. Eddie needed to be taught a lesson—he started thinking that he was better than the rest of the Guerreros and tried to steal the limelight. My motto is 'all for one, or none at all.' He chose the latter, and since I'm his big brother, it's up to me to teach him right from wrong."

Despite their recent quarrel, Chavo Sr. hopes that he and Chavito's differences with Eddie can still be resolved.

"Family matters are very personal, especially when it comes to the Guerreros," Chavo Sr. says. "We'll just have to wait and see what happens, but I think that we'll make up sooner or later, because, after all, we're family. It's just that we're in a physical business, and when we act, we act physically. The Guerreros have always been taught that way, and this time it just went a little too far." ■

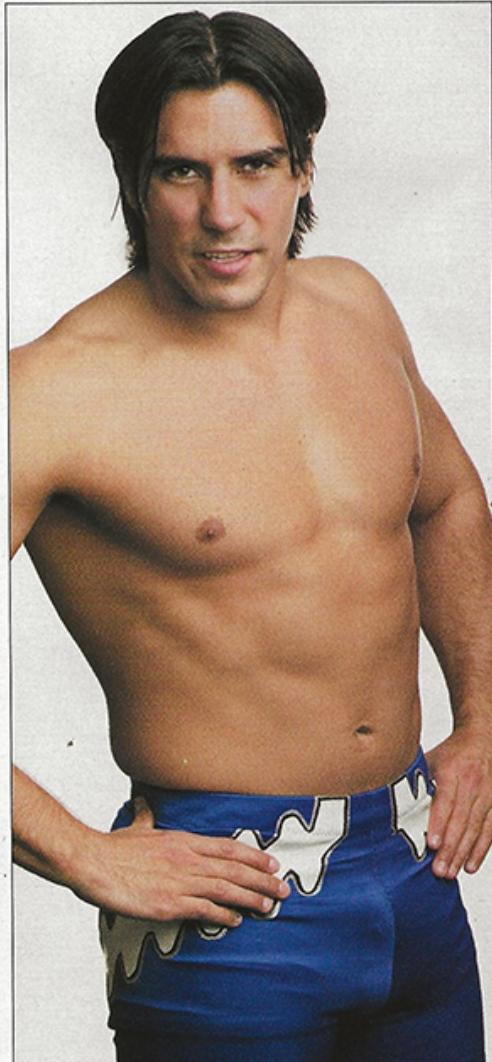


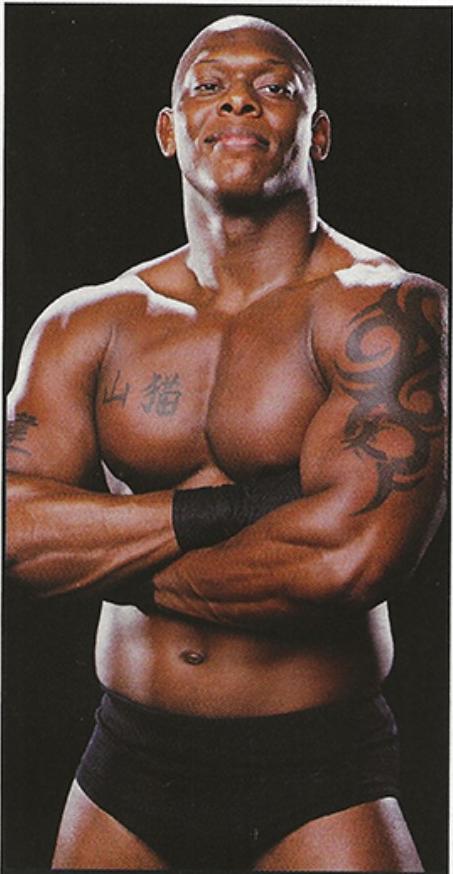
## The Great Morgan Debacle

**A**pparently, Raw General Manager Eric Bischoff was furious when he saw Matt Morgan debut on *SmackDown!* in November. In fact, he was so enraged that he immediately called his attorneys and asked them to prepare a case against Paul Heyman and *SmackDown!* for raiding the biggest blue-chipper in the WWE farm system. After months of deliberation, Bischoff's attorney has finally presented a case claiming that when Heyman offered the near 7-foot-monster a spot in a high-profile elimination match at *Survivor Series*, he used unfair business practices. The case made it all the way up to the Board of Directors, where a split decision was ruled in favor of Heyman. The executives claimed that since the *Survivor Series* was a joint pay-per-view, Bischoff easily could have offered Morgan a spot on his Team Bischoff. But since Bischoff didn't do so, it was perfectly legal for Heyman to acquire Morgan's services. The panel also ruled that any other drafts of this significance would be subject to its approval.

## WANTED: One Diva, One Superstar

Rumor has it that Paul London is looking for a new tag team partner, as well as a special female in hopes of starting his own faction. Apparently, the Shawn Michaels Wrestling Academy graduate thinks that his best recipe for success will be to surround himself with equally talented competitors who can watch his back and take him to the upper tier of WWE. If our sources are correct, one of his potential allies is a near 7-foot-monster rookie, and another is a crafty Diva with more than 10 years of experience. If this formation does take place, there is good chance that Paul and his Londonites will be wearing gold throughout much of 2004.





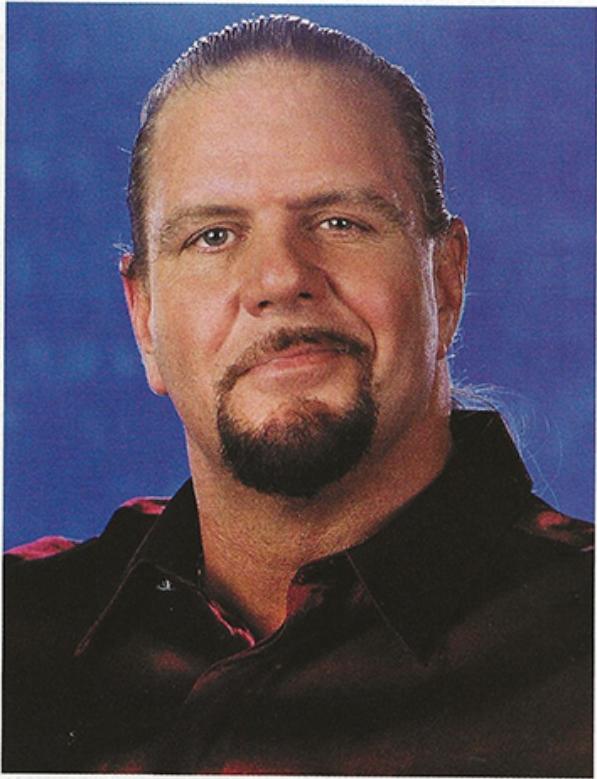
## Did O.J. Do It?

There's a rumor spreading around the *SmackDown!* locker room that Orlando Jordan has taken a controversial step in hopes of jumpstarting his career. Apparently, the former U.S. Forest Serviceman has aligned himself with one of the more sadistic minds in WWE history, and, if sources are correct, Jordan's choice of management may lead him straight to the top. As of press time, the allegiance hadn't been officially announced. Allegedly, Jordan is waiting for the right moment to reveal his new ally, and, so far, the only thing delaying the announcement is a snag in his new manager's contract. Once this formality has been ironed out, Jordan will reveal his true colors to WWE fans. And if his mysterious new leader is who we've been told, O.J. will soon become one of the most hated men in sports-entertainment.

# Gang Warfare

Current WWE road agent Michael P.S. Hayes has reportedly been campaigning backstage to introduce a Six-Man Tag Team title. Throughout the better part of the 1980s, the Fabulous Freebirds, comprised of Hayes, Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts, embarked on countless battles with the Von Erich family for the now-defunct NWA American Six-Man Tag Team title. In all, the trio won the title on five occasions. Some believe that Hayes may be simply feeling nostalgic, but others see the introduction of this championship as just what *SmackDown!* needs to keep a leg up on *Raw*. Since experimenting with the title certainly couldn't harm anything, the idea is being

taken into consideration by the *SmackDown!* competition committee. Obviously, there are a number of trios that would be a natural fit for the division, but the most intriguing result would be the new alliances that would likely form if the title was introduced.

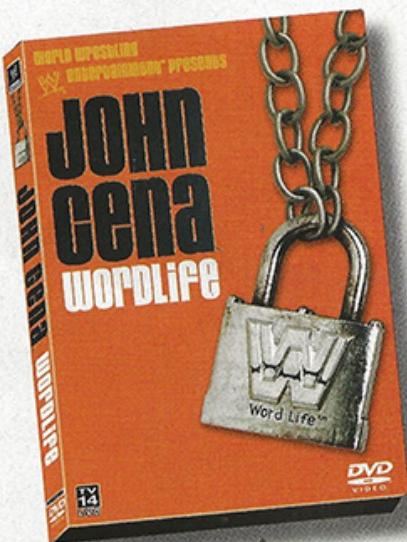


## SmackDown! Tour Guide

4/3: Mobile, AL 7:30 pm	4/13: Indianapolis, IN <i>SmackDown!</i> 7:30 pm	4/24: Tulsa, OK 7:30 pm
4/4: Little Rock, AR 7:00 pm	4/17: Lethbridge, Alberta 7:30 pm	4/25: Wichita Falls, TX 7:00 pm
4/5: Waco, TX 7:00 pm	4/18: Medicine Hat, Alberta 1:30 pm	4/26: Ft. Worth, TX 7:00 pm
4/6: San Antonio, TX <i>SmackDown!</i> 7:30 pm	4/20: Kelowna, Alberta <i>SmackDown!</i> 7:30 pm	4/27: Oklahoma City, OK <i>SmackDown!</i> 7:30 pm

\*Schedule subject to change

**H**e's one of the fastest-rising Superstars in WWE today, and now he's got a phat new DVD to prove it. *John Cena: Word Life* is a collection of the best freestyle rhymes and disses ever to spew out of the hip-hop Superstar's mouth.



## Essentials of Thuganomics



By Anthony Cali

As the host of this fast-paced new release, the "Doctor of Thuganomics" takes the cameras away from the arena and lets fans see the other side of John Cena. From his humble home in West Newbury, Massachusetts, to his cousin Trademark's recording studio, Cena reveals the intricacies of his hip-hop lifestyle, including a hidden zeal for video games and a preview of his *WrestleMania* rap. This DVD takes you where no other cameras ever have, showing you the world that made "Basic Thuganomics" a household phrase.

Among the freestyles featured on *Word Life* are some of Cena's personal favorites, including promos on such legendary Superstars as Brock Lesnar, Undertaker, Eddie Guerrero and Mr. McMahon. There are also hilarious bat-

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

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tle raps with Kurt Angle, Big Show and Rikishi, as well as a *WrestleMania XIX* freestyle on rappers Jay-Z and Fabolous.

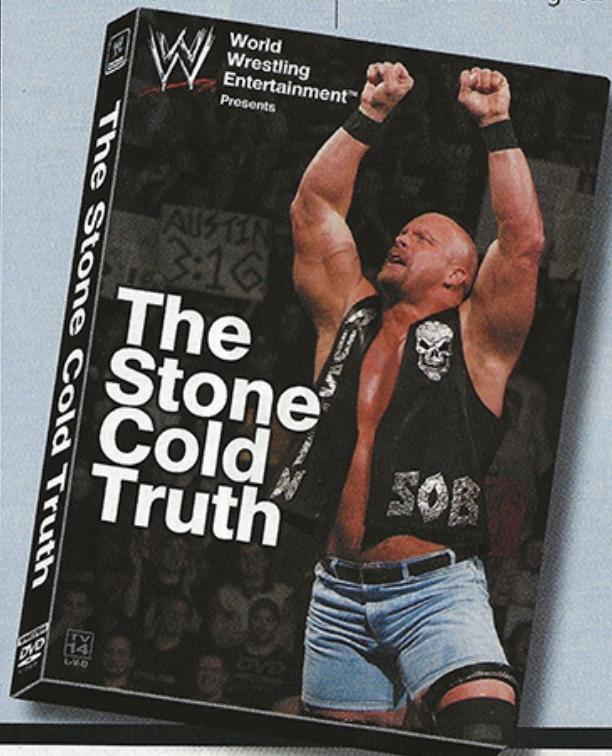
Also included on this DVD are over two hours of bonus features, including Cena's WWE Championship match against Lesnar at *Backlash '03*, his No Mercy match against Angle, and many other classic Cena battles against the likes of Guerrero, Undertaker and Chris Benoit.

*Word Life* also includes four *WWE Confidential* pieces, a *Before they Were*

## STILL AVAILABLE:

Unlike the original airing, the DVD features over two hours of bonus footage, including exclusive interviews with Austin's family and friends that didn't make the cut, and numerous matches that have helped make Stone Cold who he is today. WWE Home Video dug deep into the vault to bring you several of Austin's early WCW matches against opponents like Ric Flair, Arn Anderson

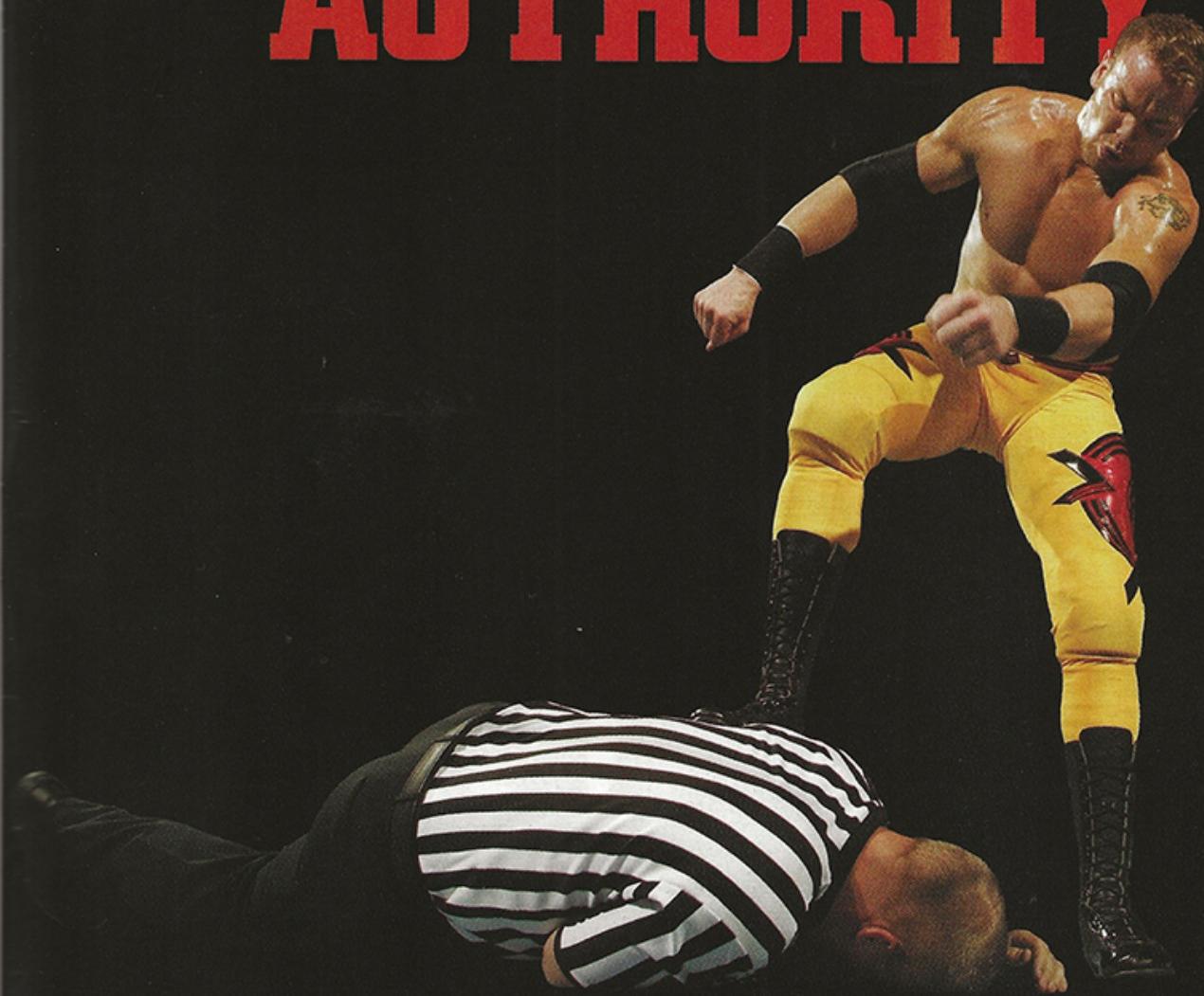
and "Beautiful" Bobby Eaton, as well as a collection of Austin's greatest ECW promos. *The Stone Cold Truth* even features Austin's WWE debut, as he takes on a young Scott Taylor (now known as Scotty 2 Hotty). Also included in this special-edition release are several exclusive off-air celebrations featuring the Texas Rattlesnake, as well as four hidden Easter Eggs that are well worth hunting for.



*Superstars* featurette, and a battle rap with a U.S. serviceman that took place during WWE's tour of Iraq. And for those DVD hounds that are savvy enough to navigate the entire DVD, there are numerous Easter eggs hidden throughout the menus.

*John Cena: Word Life* features Cena's best lyrics and greatest matches in one complete package. This DVD is unlike any other in the WWE Home Video collection and is definitely a must-have for any WWE fanatic. ■

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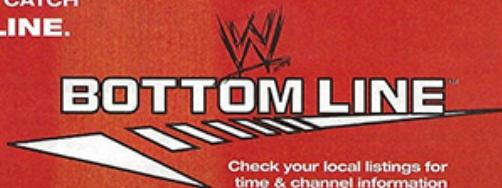
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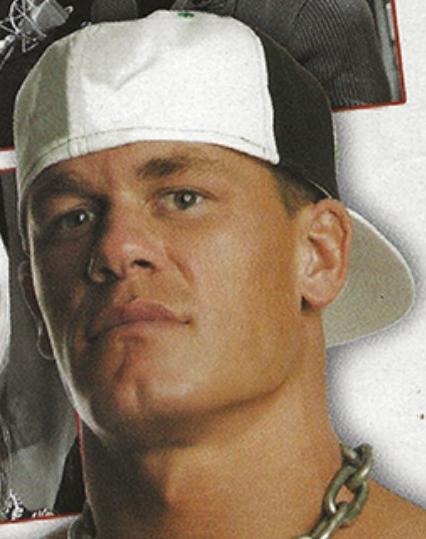
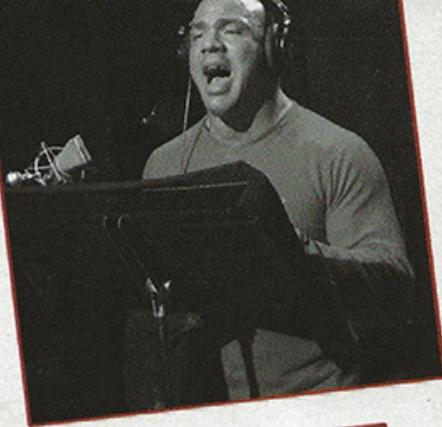
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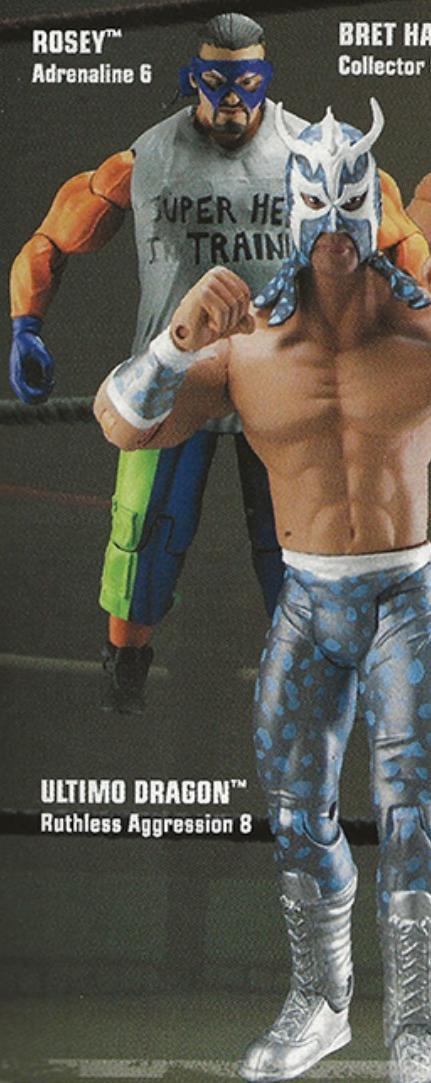
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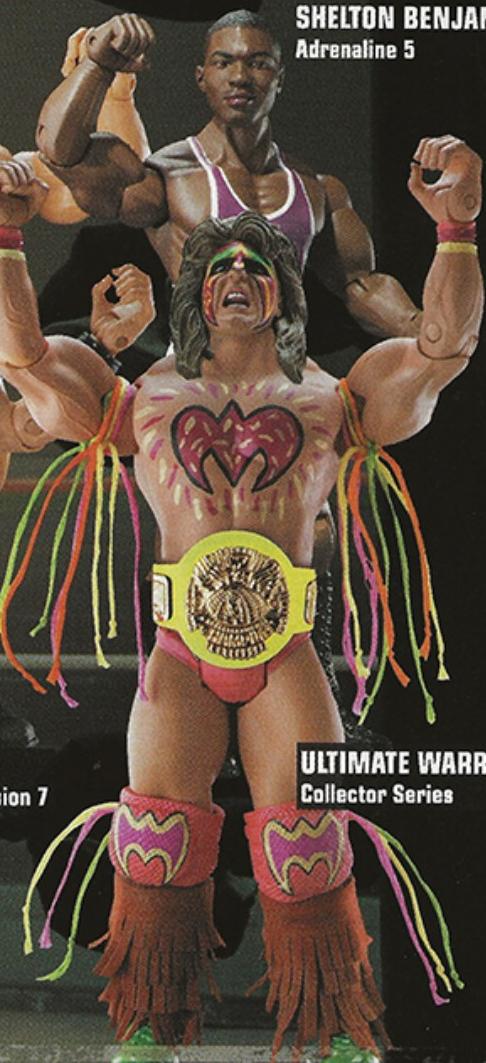
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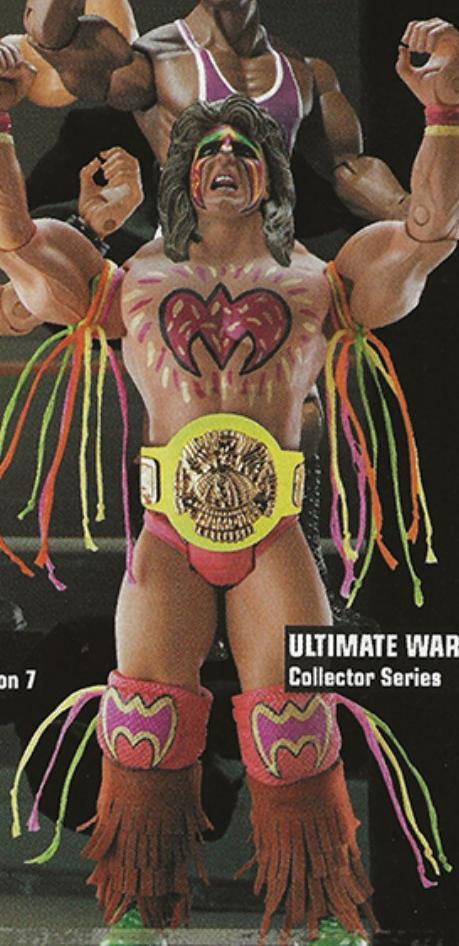
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## The Public Speaks Out!

**This month,** I'm going to take a look at a small sample of the avalanche of fan mail for the one-and-only Thug Superstar! I am sharing my inner-most thoughts with Tazz fans worldwide!

### So let's get to gettin' to it!

Dear Tazz,

I enjoy your commentary so much each week on SmackDown! But does it bother you that Michael Cole is such a tool?

And by the way, you rule!

Your Fan,  
Timmy

Well, Timmy, I feel very bad that Cole is "the way he is."

And you are correct, I do rule!

Dear Tazz,

I've been a fan for a long time. Are we going to see you in the ring again any time soon?

Jim Roland  
Dearborn, MI

Hey Jim, unless I'm hosting a bikini contest...I doubt it!

Tazz,

I think your column a few months back on WWE fans was a knock on us! Before you were a big-shot wrestling guy, I'm sure you were also a fan. You need to learn where your bread is buttered!

Al Perdenti  
Albany, N.Y.

Hey Al, guess what? You're wrong!

I never "knocked" the fans in any way, shape or form. I was pointing out the amount of *passion* our fans have. And, just for the record, I was—and still am—a fan of WWE. You need to put a better effort into not taking things out of context, and *relax* a little. And, one more thing—my kitchen is where I usually butter any sort of "baked goods."

Tazz,

If you had your chance to wrestle a dream match, who would it be against, and where would it be?

Traci Lynn  
Hartford, CT

Well Traci, I have had many matches, and I am pretty content with the way my wrestling career has gone. And, believe it or not, I don't have a dream match. Sorry.

Dear Tazz,

You're smokin' hot!

Yours truly,  
Lisa Humm

Thank you! And I am very well aware of that fact.

(There are *hundreds* like this!)

Yo Tazz,

Which do you like better, SmackDown! or Raw?

Best Wishes,  
Mark  
Dallas, TX

Hey rocket scientist...SmackDown! of course, what do you think??!!

Sexy Tazz,

I really like your cool-looking orange shades and your smooth threads!

Your biggest fan,  
Doug "Scratch-n-Sniff" Milner  
Thanks...I think.

Hi Tazz!

I heard you say on a SmackDown! broadcast once that Michael Cole buys



his clothes at Kids'R'Us. Does he get mad when you constantly insult him on TV like that?

Jamie Sarno  
Anaheim, CA

No, Cole doesn't get mad when I say stuff like that, because it's the *truth*!

I am so in touch with my audience and humongous fan base.

One of the things I am also constantly asked by the fans is, "What does it feel like to be Tazz?"

Well, the answer is: It always feels great to be Tazz! Oh, man, could you imagine what it's like to be Josh Mathews or Michael Cole?

Ouch!!!! ■

### Tazz's Top Three Condiments

1. Tabasco Sauce
2. Relish
3. Spicy Dijon Mustard



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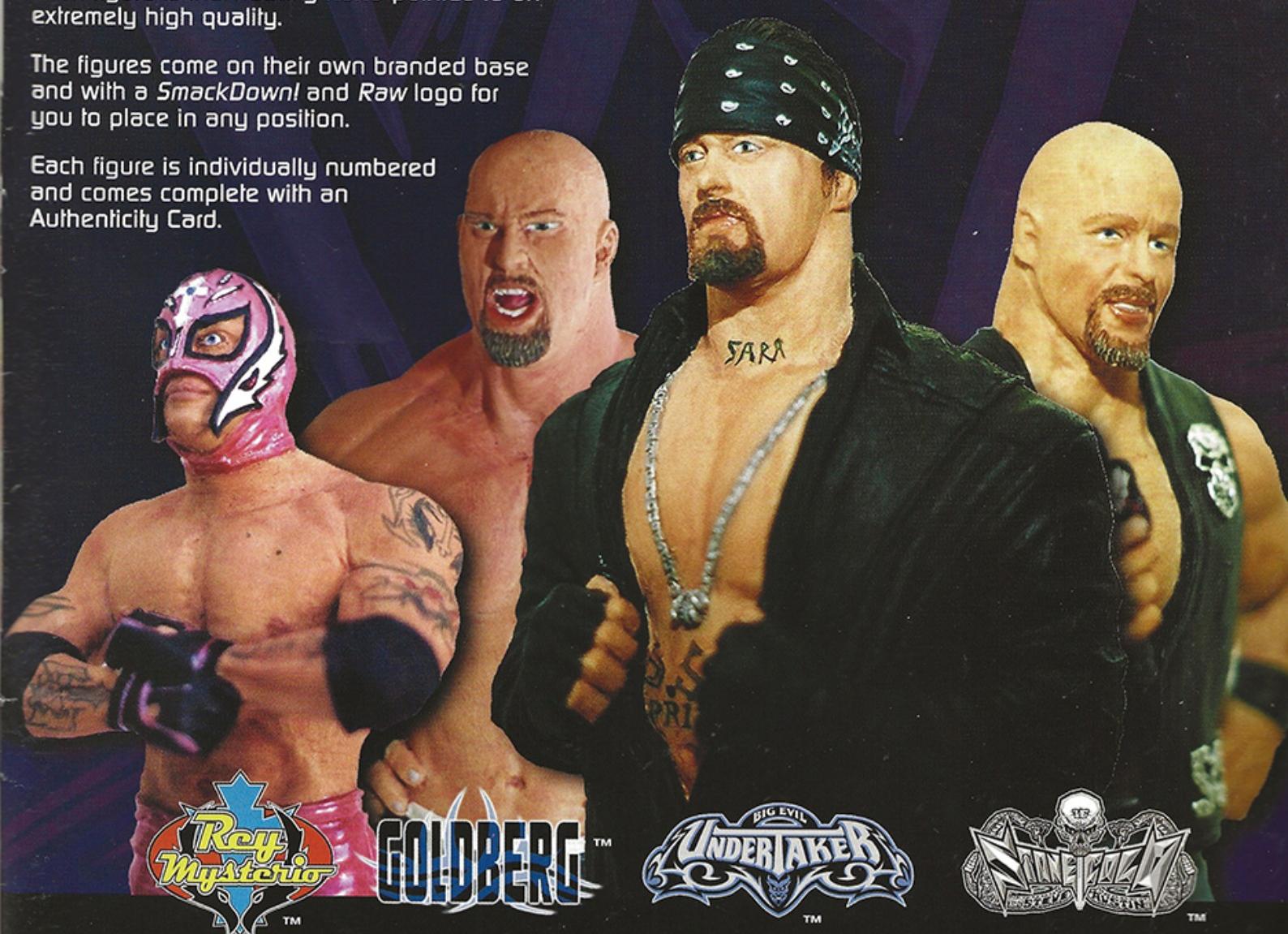
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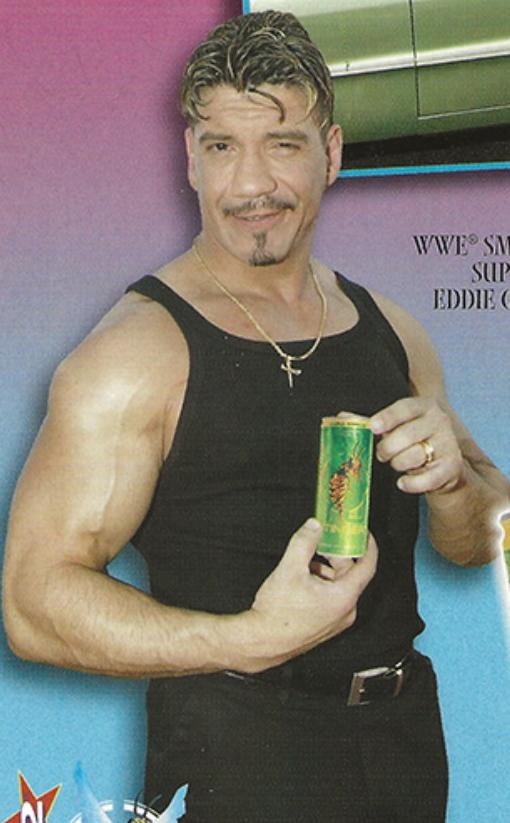
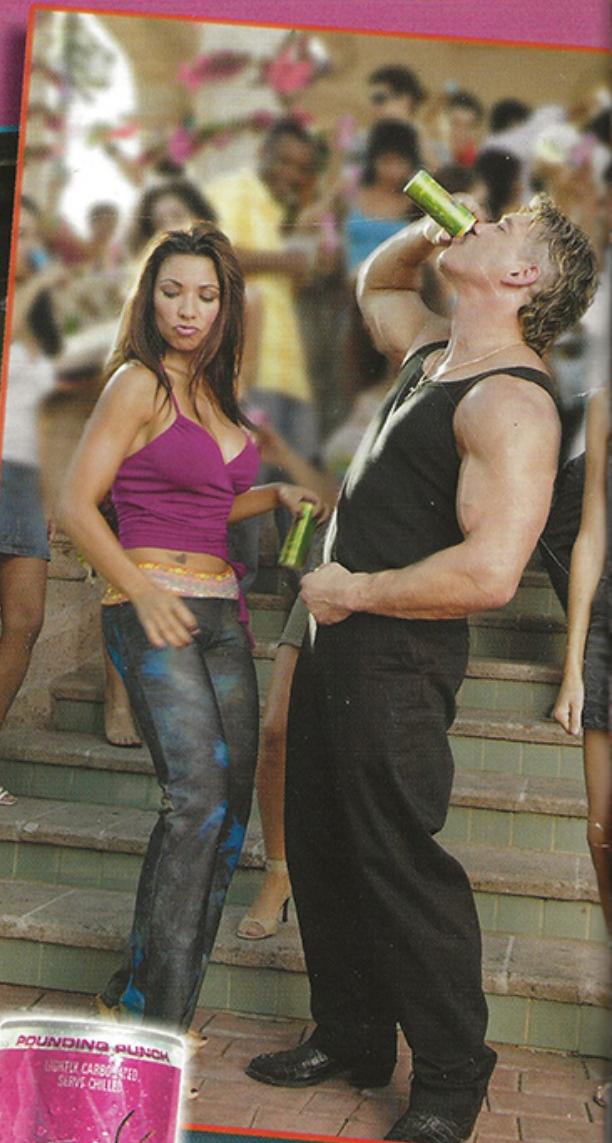
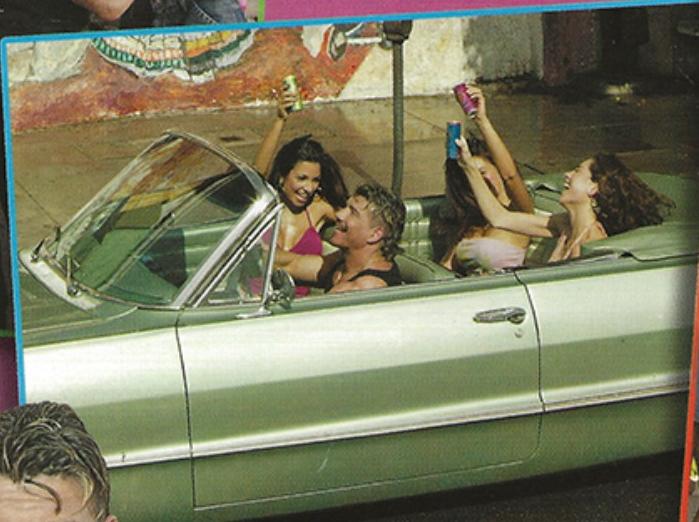
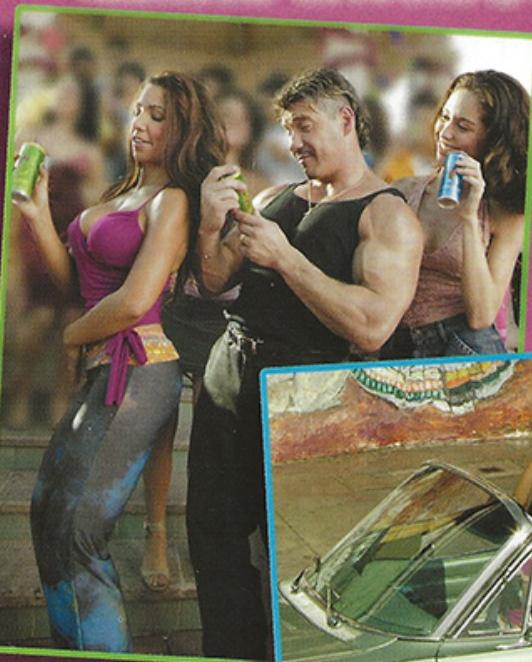
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